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THE GERMAN ARMY 1939–45 (4) EASTERN FRONT 1943–45

NIGEL THOMAS STEPHEN ANDREW

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Dedication

This book is respectfully dedicated to my late father, War Substantive Lieutenant William Rowland Thomas, Royal Fusiliers; and to the late Oberfeldarzt a.D. Dr. Med.Friedrich Herrmann, formerly of 198.Infanterie-Division and the Bundeswehr – two men from whom I have learnt a lot.

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GERMAN ARMY 1939–45 (4) EASTERN FRONT 1943–45

A sentry starts guard in front of the Headquarters of Army Group North, February 1943. His M1935 helmet – still bearing the Wehrmacht eagle left-side decal – is worn over the woollen toque or tubular balaclava. He wears the M1940 surcoat over his field uniform, and M1942 sentry's overboots of felt, leather and wood. (ECPA)

THE CONTEXT OF THE EASTERN FRONT 1943–45

The High Command of the Army and Wehrmacht

Adolf Hitler, German Head of State since 30 January 1933, had, as Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces (Oberster Befehlshaber der Wehrmacht), dominated GFM Wilhelm Keitel, the Chief of the Armed Forces High Command (Chef des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht – OKW), controlling the Army (Heer), Navy (Kriegsmarine) and Air Force (Luftwaffe). On 19 December 1941 Hitler took personal strategic command of the Wehrmacht's most important branch by appointing himself Chief of the Army High Command (Oberbefehlshaber des Heeres). Thus the highest professional military post in the German Army was held by an arrogant amateur strategist, who constantly allowed political considerations to override military imperatives – with increasingly disastrous results on the Eastern Front.

The most senior German Army officer, the Chief of the Army General Staff (Chef des Generalstabes des Heeres) had since 24 September 1942 been General der Infanterie (later Gen.Obst.) Kurt Zeitzler. Although suspected of being a protegé of Hitler and the OKW against the Army High Command (OKH), Zeitzler instead asserted the OKH's authority and successfully excluded OKW influence from the Eastern (though not from the Arctic and Balkan) Fronts. On 1 July 1944, exasperated at his lack of real authority, Zeitzler reported sick; he was ignominiously dismissed on 21 July during Hitler's purge following the unsuccessful 'Bomb Plot' of 20 July.

The Bomb Plot marked the end of the Army's remaining influence over Hitler. Henceforth the Nazi Party reigned supreme; Army personnel were forced to use the Nazi salute instead of the traditional salute, the Waffen-SS received preference, and Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler was appointed Commander of the Replacement Army – the Ersatzheer – controlling all Wehrmacht troops in Germany. On 21 July 1944 Gen.Obst.Heinz Guderian, the legendary Panzer general, was appointed Acting Chief of the Army General Staff; but he was unable to prevent Hitler's 'shackling order' of 21 January 1945, which required all military decisions down to divisional level to be referred directly to him.

On 28 March 1945 Hitler, infuriated by Guderian's undisguised contempt for his strategic decisions, dismissed him. His replacement as Acting Chief was the staff officer General der Infanterie Hans Krebs; but on 25 April Hitler ordered the OKW Operations Staff (Wehrmachtführungsamt), under Gen.Obst.Alfred Jodl, to take over the military conduct of the war, with operations in the north under Admiral of the Fleet Karl Dönitz, and in the south under Luftwaffe GFM Albert

Kesselring, effectively excluding the OKH from control over Army units.

On 30 April 1945, at 15.30 hours, Hitler committed suicide by poisoning and shooting himself. On 1 May Josef Goebbels succeeded him as Prime Minister (Reichskanzler); appointed Dönitz to the revived post of German President; and immediately committed suicide himself, as did Krebs. Dönitz immediately opened negotiations with the Allies; and on 7 May, at Rheims in eastern France, Keitel signed the unconditional surrender of all German forces to the Western Allies, repeating the surrender on 9 May in Berlin for the benefit of the Soviet Red Army. Fighting was supposed to end at 23.01 hours on 8 May, but German and Croatian troops in Slovenia and Austria in fact fought on until 15 May.

BELOW **Panzergrenadiers manning a Sd.Kfz.251 armoured personnel carrier, April 1943. They are still wearing M1935 field tunics with dark bluish green collars and shoulder straps with grass-green piping. Foliage attachment bands are worn on the helmets. (Author's collection)**

Resources

On 2 February 1943 the Stalingrad garrison surrendered. From June 1941 to December 1941, and then from June to November 1942 in the Caucasus, the German Army Groups had advanced into the Soviet Union, employing the Panzer divisions and Luftwaffe bombers to penetrate Soviet lines and attack enemy command centres with *Blitzkrieg* tactics, and Panzer and infantry divisions to destroy the resultant pockets of by-passed Soviet troops in the 'Decisive Manoeuvre' tactic. This twin-track strategy required well-equipped, well-armed and well-supplied mobile forces enjoying tactical independence and room for manoeuvre; but by February 1943 all these advantages had been lost. Thereafter German divisions were defending fixed positions from which they were gradually dislodged by overwhelming Soviet superiority in weapons and manpower.

German advances in 1941-42 had been paid for by huge casualties, and by February 1943 the 3 million-strong army had already been reduced to 2,300,000. Hitler insisted on re-raising destroyed units, developing new types of divisions, and raising Waffen-SS and Luftwaffe formations which competed for resources. The result was that the number of field divisions actually increased, but potential front-line troops were diverted into support units to complete divisional tables of organization, leaving existing divisions seriously understrength but still expected to accomplish their original missions. Regiments, nominally 3,000 strong, often fought at less than 30% strength; and huge losses of junior officers meant that the company, a Hauptmann's command, was routinely led by an inexperienced Oberleutnant or Leutnant, and sometimes by an Oberfeldwebel or Feldwebel – who often lasted only a few days before being wounded or killed.

Losses in tanks had been huge, and tank and self-propelled artillery production was easily outstripped by the now-vast Soviet production capability. German armour was now often deployed in infantry support, mimicking the earlier disastrous tactics of Polish, French and British forces, and allowing the Red Army the

LEFT **April 1943: an Unteroffizier section leader in a trench on the Donets Front in eastern Ukraine enjoys a smoke as he watches from the section MG position for enemy movement. His rank is concealed by wearing the M1940 reed-green cotton herringbone twill tunic over his M1943 field tunic. Note the second pattern reversible helmet cover with distinctive foliage loops, showing the Zeltbahn 31 camouflage scheme; and standard 6x30 combat leaders' binoculars. (ECPA)**

Infantrymen carry out a house-to-house search for partisans in a Russian village, April 1943. The soldier at left wears a M1942 field tunic, and M1940 reed-green fatigue trousers loose over his muddy marching boots. Note the full infantry equipment on his back – the mess tin and shelter-quarter strapped to his leather M1939 support Y-straps, the gas mask canister suspended from a sling, and the bayonet, bread bag and canteen fixed to his belt. Their dark green collars seem to identify the other two tunics as M1935. (Brian Davis)

initiative to adopt *Blitzkrieg* tactics. Increased issue of automatic weapons gave individual units greater firepower, but this was not enough to compensate for the shortage of manpower and heavy weapons.

A German division had traditionally recruited from a specific Military District (Wehrkreis), fostering a close regional identity which gave it great cohesion and high morale. By 1943 this system had broken down under the mounting losses, and soldiers were drafted into units in most need, destroying critical unit cohesion. Increasingly strident Nazi propaganda on the paramount need to 'defend German civilisation from the Bolshevik hordes', and a growing fear of eventual revenge by the Red Army for widely tolerated German atrocities against the Russian civilian population, went some way to stiffening fighting spirit. However, this desperation could not replace the high morale of the 1939-41 period, and incidents of desertion and indiscipline increased.

As the Eastern front line retreated inexorably towards the German heartland the understrength divisions fought ferociously and with great individual heroism; but by spring 1945, with the war clearly lost, increasing numbers of troops attempted to retreat to the Western front line in order to surrender to the Western Allies, from whom they could expect reasonable treatment in captivity.

The development of Army units

The army on the Eastern Front in 1943-45 was organized into four, later five army groups, with a sixth covering the Balkans; these comprised nine infantry and four Panzer armies, and an independent mountain army on the Arctic Front. Each Army controlled two to five infantry, Panzer, mountain, cavalry, reserve corps or army sections, each with a varying number of German and allied divisions. In autumn 1944 three armoured corps – 24th, Großdeutschland and Feldherrnhalle – were organized as powerful integrated attack formations on the Waffen-SS model, each with two divisions and supporting arms, fighting in eastern Germany in 1945.

The infantry division remained the backbone of the German army, accounting for about 82% of the divisions. From 2 October 1943 the M1939 Infantry Division (11,246-17,734 strong) was reorganized as a 12,772-strong M1944 Division, with 11,317 German personnel and 1,455 Hilfswillige auxiliaries from the Soviet Union, representing a 28% reduction in manpower but a slight increase in firepower. The M1944 division had three M1944 infantry regiments, each 1,987 strong with an anti-tank company, an infantry gun company and two infantry battalions. The six divisional support units were an artillery regiment (2,013 men), a bicycle reconaissance battalion with four Füsilier companies (708 men); a field replacement (Feldersatz) battalion, an anti-tank battalion (484 men), an engineer (620 men) and a signals (379 men) battalion. The 2,380-strong divisional services consisting of horsedrawn and motorized transport columns, a medical

company, field hospital, veterinary company, military police troop and field post office.

From 30 May 1944 existing independent reinforced infantry regiments were redesignated Grenadier Brigades, on 13 July 1944 expanded into Grenadier Divisions; and on 9 October renamed People's Grenadier Divisions, joining other such units first ordered on 26 August 1944. The 10,072 strong People's Grenadier Division (Volksgrenadierdivision) was created in the aftermath of the 20 July Bomb Plot, theoretically to provide politically reliable infantry under Himmler's direct command. Usually organized from combat-weary units, it was a M1944 division with a Füsilier company instead of a battalion, but with 18% less manpower and 16% less firepower; fighting quality varied from good to wholly inadequate.

On 10 December 1944 all infantry divisions were ordered formed as M1945 Divisions, each with 11,211 German troops and 698 Hilfswillige, with divisional services reorganized as a supply regiment (Versorgungsregiment) with a motor transport company, two horsedrawn transport companies, an ordnance company, a mechanical repair platoon, an administration company, medical company, veterinary company and field post office. In March 1945 manpower was further reduced to 10,728 Germans and 642 Hilfswillige.

The M1939 Mountain Division with 13,056 men was organized as a M1939 Infantry Division but with two mountain infantry regiments and mountain-equipped support units and services. The 13,000 strong M1942 Rifle (Jäger) Division had lightly armed mobile infantry. The 1st Ski (Skijäger) Brigade was raised in September 1943 from six independent rifle battalions (2, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 11) in two ski regiments; and on 2 June 1944 it became a division, fighting in the Pripyat marshes of Belarus and later in Slovakia. Security Divisions, organized for anti-partisan duties in Army Group rear areas, usually comprised two security or infantry regiments, Eastern (locally recruited) battalions, diverse support units and minimal services. By November 1944, with no Soviet and minimal Polish occupied territory remaining, security divisions were reorganized as infantry divisions.

The motorized divisions were effectively the élite of the German infantry. In 1942-43 the 14,319-strong M1940 Motorized Divisions, with two motorized infantry regiments and motorized divisional support units and services, each received a Panzer and an anti-aircraft or assault gun battalion. On 23 June 1943 they were redesignated M1944 Armoured Infantry Divisions (singular: Panzergrenadierdivision), 14,738 strong with two motorized armoured infantry regiments (each 3,107 men) and one Panzer battalion (602 men and 52 tanks); seven divisional support units – one motorized artillery regiment (1,580 men), and field replacement (973 men), armoured reconnaissance (1,005

LEFT **May 1943: an NCO from a Panzer regiment takes a break, May 1943. His cotton one-piece coveralls may be *feldgrau*, mouse-grey, reed-green, or even light brown. He has fixed to them (unofficially) the M1934 black, pink-piped skull collar patches, shoulder straps with aluminium NCO braid, and M1935 aluminium breast eagle on black backing from his M1934 special black vehicle uniform. He wears standard goggles on his M1940 other ranks' field-cap. (ECPA)**

LEFT, BELOW **Under their M1940 reed green fatigue trousers these troops are wearing the white collarless shirt, introduced 1 April 1933 and reissued in summer 1943 to Eastern Front units sweltering in Ukraine. The foreground soldier is removing the bolt from his Mauser Karabiner 98k for cleaning. (ECPA)**

BELOW **June 1943: Generaloberst Walter Model, 9th Army commander, in a leather greatcoat with *feldgrau* cloth collar, talks to infantrymen near Kursk. The soldier in centre foreground wears an A-frame battle pack with a blanket, mess kit, bread bag and gas mask canister attached. The section light machine gun team first gunner, right, carries a IMG34 light machine gun and a M1934 carrier for two spare barrels. (Brian Davis)**

men), anti-tank (475 men), motorized anti-aircraft (635 men), motorized engineer (835 men) and motorized signals (427 men) battalions; plus 1,729-strong divisional services.

The Panzer divisions steadily lost effectiveness as their strength and weaponry declined. On 24 September 1943 all 15,600-strong M1941 Panzer Divisions were reorganized as M1944 Panzer Divisions. Each had an establishment of 14,013 German troops and 714 Hilfswillige, in a two-battalion Panzer regiment (2,006 men, 165 tanks), a 2,287-strong armoured infantry regiment (one battalion on half-tracks), and a 2,219 motorized armoured infantry regiment; divisional support units were an armoured artillery regiment (1,451 men), and armoured field replacement (973 men), anti-aircraft (635 men), armoured reconnaissance (945 men), armoured anti-tank (475 men), armoured engineer (874 men) and armoured signals (463 men) battalions; 1,979 personnel provided additional divisional services.

On 24 March 1945 all armoured divisions were ordered to be reorganized as 11,422-strong M1945 Panzer Divisions, with a mixed 1,361-strong Panzer regiment with one Panzer (767 men and 52 tanks) and one half-track-mounted armoured infantry (488 men) battalion, two motorized armoured infantry regiments (each 1,918 men), and support units and services as before.

Six élite Army divisions, which enjoyed priority in manpower and equipment but suffered disproportionately high casualties, all served on the Eastern Front. On 19 May 1943 the Großdeutschland motorized division was reorganized as a Panzergrenadier division. On 1 April 1943 the Brandenburg commando unit (Sonderverband) became a five-regiment division, and on 15 September 1944 was ordered reorganized as a Panzergrenadier division. On 28 September 1944 these two divisions formed the Panzerkorps Großdeutschland. Hitler's Escort Battalion (Führer-Begleit-Bataillon), formed on 1 October 1939, became an armoured infantry regiment in November 1944, and on 26 January 1945 the Führer-Begleit-Division. Hitler's Infantry Battalion (Führer-Grenadier-Bataillon), formed 16 September 1943, became a brigade in July 1944 and on 26 January 1945 a Panzergrenadier division, but the planned formation of a Führer-Panzerkorps never took place.

On 1 June 1943 the 44th Infantry Division was redesignated the Imperial Grenadier Division (Reichsgrenadier-Division) Hoch- und Deutschmeister, commemorating the medieval Teutonic Knights and consciously stressing Imperial Austrian military traditions. On 20 June 1943 the Panzergrenadierdivision Feldherrnhalle was formed from Sturmabteilung (SA) volunteers. It was destroyed in July 1944, reformed on 1 September, converted to a Panzer division on 27

November, and formed the Panzerkorps Feldherrnhalle with 13 Panzer Division, which in March 1945 became the second Feldherrnhalle armoured division.

From 1 April 1943 Rtm.Georg Freiherr von Boeselager raised three mounted cavalry regiments from the mounted squadrons of divisional reconnaissance regiments as Army Group tactical reserves, forming in March and May 1944 the 3rd and 4th Cavalry Brigades, from March 1945 as 11,300-strong cavalry divisions of I Cavalry Corps.

On 1 October 1943 the 18th Artillery Division was formed with three artillery regiments, assault gun, anti-aircraft and motorized battalions with support units and services, but after nine months' inconclusive trials it was disbanded on 27 July 1944.

On 25 January 1945 Hitler ordered all available units to be reorganized as infantry divisions in an attempt to stem the relentless Red Army advance. Reserve, Training (Feldausbildungs) and Replacement (Ersatz) Divisions became general numbered divisions of the Replacement Army. In February 1945 'named' infantry and Panzer divisions were raised from local schools and garrisons. Twelve town garrisons, manned by Army and Volkssturm (the Nazi Party 'home guard' established on 25 July 1944) were reorganized as fortress units for last-ditch defence. Breslau became a Fortress Corps; Danzig, Frankfurt an-der-Oder, Gotenhafen, Stettin, Swinemünde and Warschau became Fortress Divisions; Kolberg, Küstrin, Posen, Scheidemühl and Görlitz 'Fortresses'. After May 1945 all these towns, except Frankfurt-an-der-Oder, became part of Poland.

From October 1942, 200,000 Luftwaffe personnel were organized into 21 Field Divisions, organized as 7,000-strong M1942 Rifle (Jäger) Divisions; most served on the Eastern Front. On 1 November 1943, 14 field divisions transferred to the Army and were reorganized as M1944 infantry divisions with 'Rifle (L)' Regiments. On 29 March 1945 three infantry divisions named Schlageter, Friedrich Ludwig Jahn and Theodor Körner were formed from State Labour Service (RAD) personnel with Army cadres, support units and services, and saw limited action.

The Army Patrol Service (Heeresstreifendienst), established on 18 November 1939, patrolled Replacement Army garrisons and checked the papers of soldiers on leave. On 1 February 1941 it was unified under a Patrol Service Commander controlling railway guard battalions, checking documents in large railway stations. On 1 March 1944 it formed part of the Wehrmacht Patrol Service supervising station guard battalions, policing trains and railway centres. In January 1942 a Leave Supervision Commander was established for Patrol Service Groups checking soldiers travelling to and from leave. HQ Guards guarded important buildings.

On 27 November 1943 distinguished veterans and Patrol Service personnel were formed into Field Police (Feldjäger) Commands I-III, reporting directly to GFM Keitel, and holding precedence over all Patrol Service and Military Police. Each command controlled a Field Police

Panzergrenadier carrying M1941 ammunition box for the section light machine gun team, October 1943. He wears a Zeltbahn 31 camouflage shelter quarter as a poncho over his field uniform, and string netting and a band on his helmet. (ECPA)

BELOW **Four junior officers, perhaps company commanders, confer with the commander (a Knight's Cross holder) of a 'Großdeutschland' armoured infantry battalion, September 1943. Note the M1938 officers' field cap (left), M1934 'old style' peaked field cap (second right), and standard M1943 peaked field cap (right); M1940 other ranks' field tunics modified with officers' dark green collars; and the divisional cuff title. (Friedrich Herrmann)**

Battalion (from 25 April 1944, a Regiment) with five motorized companies each with 30 officers and 90 NCOs divided into 30 patrols; based 12 miles behind the front line, these units dealt out rough justice, including summary execution, to apparently erring Wehrmacht personnel. These were supported from December 1944 by Patrol Corps (Streifkorps) sections each comprising a senior NCO and nine other ranks.

On 24 January 1944 some Army Officials were reorganized as service personnel, and on 1 May 1944 transferred to the two branches of the newly formed Special Troop Service (Truppensonderdienst) – the Wehrmacht Legal Service for senior career court martial officials, and the Administration Service for senior and advanced career district administration officials and senior career paymaster officials.

European volunteers

On 20 October 1943 the 250th Infantry Division – the Spanish 'Blue Division' – was repatriated to Spain, leaving a 1,500-strong 'Spanish Legion' (*Legion Española de Volontarios)* which was repatriated in March 1944; this left two Spanish battalions in the Replacement Army. The three Croatian Legion infantry divisions (369, 373, 392) fought in Croatia until May 1945. The 373rd Walloon Infantry Battalion transferred to the Waffen-SS on 1 June 1943, followed on 1 September 1944 by the 638th Reinforced French Grenadier Regiment.

From September 1943 Germany's European allies began to desert the Axis cause, but small numbers of soldiers from these countries fought on in Waffen-SS national units, while some Bulgarian, Hungarian, Rumanian and Slovak troops served in Army construction units or as individual combat replacements.

The Osttruppen

Baltic troops received preferential treatment in the Wehrmacht over other Soviet nationalities. On 1 January 1943 Estonian troops were reorganized into Estonian Company 657 and Estonian Battalions 658-660, transferring to the Waffen-SS on 24 April 1944. From February six Estonian Frontier Regiments (1-6) were formed to defend Estonia, disbanding in September 1944. Twenty-two Baltic construction battalions were also formed – Latvian I-IV in 1943, Latvian ex-police 314-315, 325-328 in June and July 1944; Lithuanian I-VI in 1943, Lithuanian ex-police in 1944, and Estonian 1-5 in April and May 1944.

From 1 July 1944 Osttruppen were redesignated 'Volunteers' (Freiwillige) in recognition of the vital contribution they were making to the German war effort. Most units were deployed on rear area security, transport and construction duties, since the Germans were unwilling to test their loyalty in battle against Soviet troops; but although individuals and even some whole units deserted to Soviet lines, these represented only a small proportion of the estimated 800,000 former Soviet citizens serving in the Wehrmacht, Waffen-SS and other paramilitary organizations. All

Generalleutnant Heinz Hellmich (left foreground) – Inspector of Osttruppen from 15 December 1942 to 31 December 1943 – inspects a company of the Turkestan Legion, June 1943. He wears the M1920 eight-buttoned field tunic with M1934 'old style' peaked field cap. The legionaries wear the M1940 tropical field tunic and canvas belt permitted in Ukraine and southern Russia in the summer. Note the German cadre officer behind Hellmich, also in tropical uniform; and the officer at far left in a M1920 tunic remodelled with M1935 bellows pockets. (Author's collection)

May 1943: three senior Russian Liberation Army (ROA) officers at Pskov, north-western Russia. *Polkovnik* (later Major-General and Deputy Chief of General Staff) V.I.Boyarskiy (left) wears a Red Army M1935 khaki *gymnastiorka* field smock and khaki service peaked cap. *Polkovnik* K.Kromiadi (centre), Vlasov's Chief of Staff, wears a white Tsarist-style summer field smock and khaki cap; and *General-Leytenant* G.N.Zhilenkov (right), Head of the Main Propaganda Department, wears a German Army general officer's uniform. All have M1943 ROA cap badges, collar patches and shoulder boards; and note the ROA armshield. (Friedrich Herrmann)

auxiliaries – Hilfswillige or 'Hiwis' – were fully integrated into German divisions and increasingly treated on a par with German troops; and from 24 October 1944 recruitment of Polish Hiwis was officially sanctioned.

In January 1943 the Eastern Battalions were transferred to the Russian Liberation Army (Russkaya Osvoboditel'naya Armiya) or ROA, under the nominal command of ex-Soviet general Andrey Vlassov. He hoped to unite all Russian volunteer units into an army to free the Soviet Union from communist control; but command of the Eastern Battalions remained firmly in German hands. A total of 71 battalions served on the Eastern Front; but from October 1943, 42 battalions from destroyed German divisions were transferred to Belgium, Denmark, France and Italy.

On 14 November 1944 the ROA was officially redesignated the Armed Forces of the Committee for the Liberation of the Russian Peoples – VS-KONR – with about 50,000 Russian troops, but the term ROA was commonly used until May 1945. The 1st Infantry (600th German) Division was formed on 1 December 1944, and fought briefly on the Oder Front in April 1945 before changing sides and helping Czech insurgents to liberate Prague from the Germans in May 1945. The 2nd (650) and 3rd (599) Divisions were never fully established. An equivalent Ukrainian Liberation Army (Ukrainske Vyzvolne Vivsko), announced in January 1943 for Ukrainian Eastern Battalion personnel, was never actually formed.

On 4 August 1943 the 1st Cossack Division was formed with six cavalry regiments (1 & 5 Don, 2 Siberian, 3 & 4 Kuban, 6 Terek), divisional support units and services. It served in Croatia from October 1943, and in November 1944 transferred to Waffen-SS control, divided into 1st and 2nd Divisions and forming XV Cossack Cavalry Corps. Nine independent Cossack infantry and 19 cavalry battalions fought on the Eastern Front with German divisions.

In July 1942 the staff of the disbanded 162nd Infantry Division in occupied Poland was used to train battalions of the six newly established Armenian, Azerbaijan, Georgian, North Caucasian, Volga-Tartar and Turkestan Eastern Legions. In all 98 Eastern Legion battalions were formed (82 by the 162nd Division) and 79 served on the Eastern and Balkan Fronts 1942-45; 12 of these transferred to France and Italy in 1943-44.

CAMPAIGN SUMMARY 1943-45

The Northern Front

In February 1943 Army Group North (Heeresgruppe Nord), under Gen.Obst. (later GFM) Georg von Küchler, held the northern sector of the Eastern Front with two static infantry armies. The 18th Army, with 26 divisions (20 infantry, four Luftwaffe infantry, one Waffen-SS infantry, one mountain) besieged Leningrad, and held the Volkhov Line from Lake Ladoga to Lake Ilmen. The 16th Army's 16 divisions (15 infantry,

one Luftwaffe infantry) held the northern Lovat River before Velikiye Luki. This line held throughout 1943, although on 28 February 16th Army evacuated the vulnerable Demyansk salient, and on 9 October surrendered Nevel.

On 14 January 1944 the Red Army attacked Army Group North, now under GFM Walter Model, forcing it back from Leningrad and Lake Ilmen and occupying Novgorod, Luga, Staraja Rossiya and Kholm. When the offensive halted on 1 March, Army Group North (now under Gen.Obst.Georg Lindemann, from July 1944 Gen.Obst.Johannes Frießner, then Gen.Obst.Ferdinand Schörner) had retreated to the Panther Line on the Estonian and Latvian borders. The Red Army resumed the offensive on 10 July, occupying Ostrov on 21 July, Pskov on 23 July, Narva on 28 July and, against hardening German opposition, Tartu on 25 August, and Daugavpils in eastern Latvia on 27 July.

On 14 September 1944 the Red Army attacked again, occupying Estonia and northern Latvia. Army Group North evacuated Riga on 11 October, but was cut off on the Latvian coast behind the Liepaja-Tukums line, Hitler refusing to allow a break-out or a rescue. On 25 January 1945 the Army Group was redesignated 'Kurland' (named after the Latvian province of Kurzeme), successively under Gen.Obst.Heinrich Vietinghoff, Gen.Obst.Lothar Rendulic and Gen.Obst.Carl Hilpert. It held out against Red Army attacks in six 'Kurland Battles' until 8 May 1945.

The Arctic Front

The six divisions of 20th Mountain Army (2 infantry, 3 mountain, 1 Waffen-SS mountain), under Gen.Obst.Eduard Dietl (from June 1944, Gen.Obst.Rendulic), occupied a defensive line in Soviet Karelia and guarded the Petsamo nickel mines. On 7 September 1944 Finland concluded an armistice with the USSR and declared war on Germany; under Soviet-Finnish pressure the 20th Army retreated into Norway, defending it as the Wehrmacht Command Norway under Gen. der Gebirgstruppen Franz Boehme.

The Central Front

In February 1943 GFM Günther von Kluge's Army Group Centre (Heeresgruppe Mitte) defended the Rzhev-Orel-Kharkov line in Western Russia. In March it comprised five armies

Infantrymen at ease, September 1943; all wear the M1942 field tunic and M1943 field cap. Note the silver Infantry Assault Badge worn by the two Unteroffizier section leaders at left and right; the senior NCOs' collar and shoulder strap edging braid also shows well. (Brian Davis)

(2nd Panzer, 3rd Panzer, 2nd, 4th, 9th) totalling 81 divisions (12 Panzer, one Waffen-SS Panzer, 53 infantry, five motorized, one Waffen-SS cavalry, six Luftwaffe, three Hungarian).

On 24 March 1943 the 9th Army evacuated Rzhev and the Vyazma Salient. On 4 July, 17 Panzer and 26 other divisions in 9th Army and 4th Panzer Army (Army Group South) attacked the Soviet-held Kursk Salient in Operation Zitadelle, the greatest tank battle in history; but on 17 July the attack was called off with minimal territorial gains and huge losses of men and equipment. Now the Red Army counter-attacked, taking Orel on 1 August, Smolensk and Roslavl on 24 September and Gomel on 26 November; Army Group Centre, now under GFM Ernst Busch, was forced back into Belarus.

October 1943: the crew of a IMG 34 mounted on a tripod for sustained fire. The second gunner has foliage stuck through a rubber band round his helmet; the M1931 shelter-quarter is carried rolled up on the back of his belt. (Brian Davis)

On 22 June 1944 some two and a half million Soviet troops attacked the 400,000-strong Army Group Centre, now under GFM Walter Model. The Red Army took Vitebsk on 27 June, Mogilev on 28 June, Bobruisk on 29 June, and Minsk on 4 July, inflicting 300,000 casualties and virtually annihilating the Army Group. By mid-July the Red Army had cleared Belarus and advanced into eastern Lithuania, taking Vilna on 12 July and Kaunas on the 30th. They rolled on into eastern Poland, capturing Brest-Litovsk on 28 July, Bialystok on 29 July, and eastern Warsaw on 31 July. The Soviet armies halted on the Vistula and allowed German suppression of the Warsaw Uprising by the Polish Home Army (1 August-2 October 1944). Gen.Obst.Georg-Hans Reinhardt took over command of Army Group Centre in August 1944.

On 12 January 1945 the Red Army resumed the offensive, taking Warsaw on 17 January and advancing into eastern Germany; they halted on the River Oder on 3 February, and by 23 February had occupied most of East Prussia. On 25 January 1945 Army Group Centre was redesignated Army Group North, under Gen.Obst.Rendulic (from March 1945, Gen.Obst.Walter Weiß), with 25 divisions (two Panzer, one Luftwaffe Panzer, one Luftwaffe Panzergrenadier, 21 infantry), defending the Königsberg Pocket and Samland Peninsula. On 17 March 1945 the Red Army attacked, taking Königsberg on 9 April and Samland on 21 April.

On 24 January 1945 Army Group 'Weichsel' was formed under Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler (from March, Gen.Obst.Gotthard Heinrici; from April, Luftwaffe Gen.Obst.Kurt Student), with 47 divisions (three Panzer, 35 infantry, seven Waffen-SS, one naval infantry, one parachute) in 3rd Panzer, 2nd and 9th Armies, defending the Oder Front and Pomeranian coast. On 24 February the Red Army attacked, taking Kolberg on 18 March and Danzig on 30 March. On 16

GFM Ernst Busch, commander of Army Group Centre, November 1943, wearing the M1943 peaked field cap; a privately tailored sheepskin jacket with the gold-on-black M1942 arm badge of his rank; and the M1935 breeches with general officers' bright red piping and stripes. He carries a field-marshal's undress black baton, with a silver knob and a tassel in the German national colours. (Brian Davis)

LEFT **A Panzergrenadier in an ice-covered slit trench, December 1943. He wears the M1942 reversible padded winter smock with a coloured field sign round the sleeve, and matching padded trousers; and a *feldgrau* toque under his whitewashed M1935 helmet. There were eight field sign variations – black or red armband on left arm, on right, or on both arms; black on left, red on right; red on left, black on right. (Brian Davis)**

April Soviet roops opened the attack on Berlin, defended by 9th Army. On 1 May the Berlin garrison surrendered; and on 3 May the Red Army linked up with British and United States troops on the Elbe River.

The Southern Front

In February 1943 Ukraine was defended on the Donets River by Army Group South, formed on 12 February from Army Group Don under GFM Erich von Manstein, with 1st and 4th Panzer Armies, Armeeabteilung Kempf (later 8th Army), and Armeeabteilung Hollidt (later 6th Army), totalling 32 divisions (seven Panzer, 17 infantry, two motorized, four Waffen-SS Panzergrenadier, two Luftwaffe). The Crimea and the Taman Peninsula were held by Army Group 'A' under GFM Ewald von Kleist, with 20 divisions (one Panzer, seven infantry, two rifle, two mountain, 1 Luftwaffe, six Rumanian, one Slovak) in 17th Army, joined in October 1943 by 6th Army.

In February 1943 the Red Army advanced from Stalingrad, capturing Kursk on 8 February, Belgorod on 9 February, Rostov-on-Don on 14 February and Kharkov on 16 February. Manstein counter-attacked on 19 February with 1st Panzer Army, reoccupying Kharkov on 15 March. On 17 July the Red Army thrust once again, taking Belgorod on 5 August and Kharkov on 23 August; and on 30 September Army Group South retreated to the Dnepr River, abandoning Kiev on 6 November. Army Group 'A' evacuated the Taman Peninsula on 9 October, and by 31 October 17th Army was stranded in the Crimea.

On 24 December 1943 the Red Army resumed the offensive from its Donets bridgeheads against Army Group South, taking Zhitomir on 31 December, Nikopol on 7 February 1944, the Cherkassy (Korsun) Pocket on 15 February and Krivoi Rog on 22 February, reaching the northern Carpathian Mountains on the Rumanian border on 27 March and Brody and Tarnopol in southern Poland on 15 April. The 6th Army retreated through southern Ukraine, giving up Odessa on 10 April 1944; meanwhile 17th Army lost Sevastopol on 9 May, evacuating by sea from the Crimea to Rumania.

On 30 March 1944 Army Group South in southern Poland was redesignated Army Group North Ukraine under GFM Walter Model (from June, Gen.Obst.Josef Harpe), with three armies (1st and 4th Panzer, 1st Hungarian). On 12 July the Red Army attacked, taking Brody on 22 July, Lublin on 23 July and Lvov on 27 July. On 23 September the Army Group was redesignated Army Group 'A', adding 17th Army. On 12 January 1945 the renewed Soviet offensive hit the Army Group, which on 25 January was redesignated Army Group Centre under Gen.Obst.(in April, GFM) Ferdinand Schörner, with three armies (1st and 4th Panzer, 17th). The Red Army took Cracow on 19 January, reaching the River Oder on 25 January; Soviet forces advanced through Czechoslovakia, taking Bratislava on 4 April and Prague on 9 May 1945.

On 30 March 1944 Army Group 'A' became Army Group South Ukraine, with five armies (6th, 8th, 17th, 3rd and 4th Rumanian) in Rumania under Gen.Obst.Schörner (from July, Gen.Obst. Johannes Frießner). On 20 August the Soviets attacked, taking Iasi on 22 August and Kishinev on 24 August. Rumania and Bulgaria defected to the Allies on 23 August and 8 September respectively. On 23 August the Army Group retreated to Hungarian-held northern Transylvania, and became

Army Group South with four armies (6th, 8th; 2nd & 3rd Hungarian).

In October 1944 the Soviets pushed through eastern Hungary, taking Debrecen on 20 October and besieging Budapest from 20 December 1944 to 13 February 1945. The Army Group, now under Gen.der Infanterie Otto Wöhler, held western Hungary until 16 March 1945, when the Red Army resumed the offensive, entering eastern Austria on 1 April and taking Vienna on 13 April. On 30 April the Army Group was redesignated Army Group Ostmark with three armies (6th, 8th, 6th SS-Panzer) under Gen.Obst.Rendulic, but surrendered on 9 May 1945.

In September 1944 the Southern and Balkan Fronts merged. The Red Army entered Yugoslavia on 27 September 1944, taking Belgrade on 19 October from Army Group 'F' (2nd Panzer Army, Armeeabteilung Serbien, Army Group 'E'). In November Army Group 'E' evacuated Greece and Albania; in December 2nd Panzer Army redeployed to southern Hungary, and Army Group 'F' formed a defensive line on the Bosnian-Serb border with Croatian troops. Initially the line held well against a general offensive by Soviet, Bulgarian and Yugoslav Partisan forces launched on 15 March, and Army Group 'E' retreated in good order, evacuating Sarajevo on 7 April, Rijeka on 4 May and Zagreb on 8 May. The Army Group finally surrendered in southern Austria on 15 May 1945.

March 1944: GFM Erich von Manstein, commander of Army Group South, talks to troops who had fought in the 'Cherkassy Pocket' in the central Ukraine. He wears a privately-tailored fur cap and a fur collar on his M1935 greatcoat. Manstein's adjutant, left, wears bright aluminium wire aiguillettes and a M1934 'old style' field cap. (Brian Davis)

ARMY UNIFORM

Officers' service uniform

This uniform, also worn by probationary second lieutenants (Oberfähnrich and equivalent), consisted of the M1935 officer's peaked cap, M1935 officer's field tunic with ribbons, M1935/ M1940 officer's field greatcoat, M1934 officer's brown leather belt, officer's breeches and officer's black leather high-boots, grey suede gloves, pistol and holster.

The superior-quality *feldgrau* (greenish-grey) cap had a bluish dark-green 'facing cloth' band, facing cloth pipings in branch colour, a plain black peak and bright aluminium wire chin cords. A M1935 aluminium eagle was worn above an aluminium national cockade in an oak-leaf wreath. General officers had cord cap pipings and wire chin cords in fired gold or yellowish gold 'celleon' artificial material, and, from 16 November 1942, gilded insignia.

The superior quality *feldgrau* cloth M1935 tunic, as modified from 26 May 1941, had six matt grey buttons, four patch pockets, turn-back cuffs and a bluish dark green collar. The field quality insignia consisted of the M1935 officer's aluminium thread breast-eagle on a bluish dark green backing; M1935 officer's bluish dark green collar patches with hand-embroidered 'guards braids' with branch-colour centre cords, and shoulder boards of rank backed with branch colour. General officers had gold buttons, a dress-quality gold thread or celleon eagle, and a gold two-leaf *Alt-Larisch* design on bright red collar-patches (three-leaf for Generalfeldmarschall). From about December 1943 some tunics were produced with lapels and open collars, usually only worn by general officers and staff officers.

The *feldgrau* greatcoat had two rows of six buttons and a bluish dark

green or *feldgrau* collar (widened in 1942), with bright red lapel linings for general officers. The plain stone-grey or *feldgrau* breeches had bright red seam pipings and stripes for general officers or crimson for staff officers. The black leather high-boots were worn with spurs. From 27 July 1943 the brown belt was to be stained black, an order rescinded on 30 October 1943.

Other ranks' service uniform

The service uniform for technical NCOs, senior NCOs and many junior NCOs consisted of the other ranks' M1935 service peaked cap or M1935/M1942 field cap, M1935 field tunic and M1935 field greatcoat. M1940 trousers were worn with black leather marching boots, or M1943 belted trousers with M1941 *feldgrau* canvas anklets (ironically nicknamed 'retreat gaiters' or 'Timoshenko socks') and black lace-up ankle boots. A black leather belt with an aluminium buckle (introduced 24 January 1936; from 1941, painted *feldgrau*) and holster with pistol, and grey suede gloves, were also worn. Other junior NCOs and men wore the field cap at all times, and a bayonet and scabbard on the belt.

The other ranks' peaked service cap was as for officers but in *feldgrau* tricot with a black patent leather or vulcanized fibre chin strap. The M1935 other ranks' *feldgrau* cloth field cap had a mouse-grey machine-embroidered eagle on a *feldgrau* backing and a tricolour cockade on a *feldgrau* rhomboid. The M1942 other ranks' field cap, introduced 21 July 1942, had double-lined flaps which could be folded down and buttoned under the chin in cold weather. With this cap the fourth pattern M1939 mountain cap insignia was worn – a mouse-grey woven eagle and cockade on a *feldgrau* T-shaped backing.

The M1943 peaked field cap, introduced 11 June 1943, was issued promptly to Field Army and Replacement Army units. Made of inferior quality *feldgrau* uniform cloth, with two small grey pebbled-finish flap buttons, it had a deep peak which soon bent into a crescent shape with use. It was worn with M1942 field cap insignia.

January 1944: this wounded infantryman, wearing an M1942 reversible padded winter tunic over his field uniform, sits on an improvised stretcher as his comrades await a truck from the divisional medical company. The soldier at left, probably an NCO or officer, is wearing the M1942 two-piece loose cotton snow suit with a red field sign round his right sleeve; his visible kit includes a M1938 folding shovel, M1931 mess kit, bread-bag, canteen and M1935 dispatch case. The soldier at centre, a medical corps orderly in a M1935 greatcoat, carries field dressings in two medical pouches on his belt. (Friedrich Herrmann)

The M1940 *feldgrau* tunic had five (from 26 May 1941, six) matt grey buttons, other ranks' M1940 mouse-grey breast eagle, and M1940 'standard braid' collar patches. NCOs wore M1940 mouse-grey artificial silk or cellulose-fibre wool collar edging braid. The M1942 other ranks' field tunic omitted the pocket pleats and the M1943 tunic had straight pocket flaps. The M1943 belted trousers had a reinforced seat and tapered legs for anklets.

The M1940 other ranks' *feldgrau* field greatcoat was

as for officers but with other ranks' quality cloth and insignia. The M1942 model had a wider collar for better protection against the cold.

Walking-out uniform

When walking-out or on leave officers wore the service uniform, sometimes with the M1937 officers' piped field tunic, with straight *feldgrau* trousers and no belt, holster or pistol. Technical and senior NCOs wore the peaked cap, field tunic or greatcoat, trousers and black leather ankle boots, belt and marksmanship lanyard, junior NCOs and men adding the scabbarded bayonet with knot.

Officers' field uniform

In the field all officers (except platoon leaders) wore the other ranks' M1940/M1942/M1943 or M1944 field tunic, the M1935/M1942 steel helmet or M1938/M1942 or M1943 field cap, officers' breeches with high-boots or other ranks' trousers with M1941 anklets and black lace-up ankle boots.

On 31 October 1939 all officers below general rank serving in combat units were ordered to wear the other ranks' field tunic, black belt, trousers and marching boots, in order not to be too conspicuous to the enemy; but most officers shortened the tunic skirt, adding officers' roll-back cuffs, box pleats to the pockets, officers' collar patches, and bluish dark green collars of higher and more pointed shape. Wear of the other ranks' black belt by officers was forbidden after 23 July 1943, and a blackened officers' M1934 brown belt was prescribed.

On 25 September 1944 the Felduniform 44 was introduced as a new standard field uniform for all ranks, replacing existing uniforms when they wore out. The waist-length field blouse, of inferior cloth in a browner green-grey shade designated *feldgrau 44*, had six front buttons and two plain breast pockets with straight flaps. Officers wore other ranks' M1940 *feldgrau* 'guards braids' sewn directly onto the collar, or officers' M1935 collar patches. The officers' breast eagle was either the other ranks' M1944 mouse-grey woven eagle and swastika on a *feldgrau* triangle, an officers' M1944 aluminium woven eagle on a bluish dark green triangle, or the M1935 officers' aluminium thread breast eagle on a bluish dark green backing. General officers wore a dress-quality M1935 gold thread or M1938 celleon eagle. The M1944 trousers, also in *feldgrau 44*, had an integral belt and were gathered at the ankle with a drawstring.

Iasi, north-eastern Rumania, April 1944: the unmistakable figure of Generalleutnant Hasso von Manteuffel, commanding the Panzergrenadier Division Großdeutschland (centre), wearing his M1934 'old style' field cap and a leather greatcoat, with 10x50 Zeiß binoculars with black bakelite protective lid. He confers with an officer in a sheepskin coat; and (right) a Hauptmann of the Panzer-Regiment Großdeutschland, wearing the M1942 Panzer denim uniform in reed-green herringbone twill with a large left thigh pocket; note applied collar patches, and shoulder boards with gilt 'GD' monogram. In the left background are a Rumanian general officer and captain; five months later Rumania changed sides and declared war on Germany. (Brian Davis)

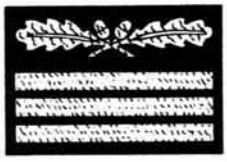
TABLE 1: ARM RANK INSIGNIA OF THE GERMAN ARMY
22 AUGUST 1942 - 8 MAY 1945

This insignia was worn 10cm below the left shoulder seam of the M1938 mountain troops' wind jacket, snow shirt, M1935 grey Panzer shirt, M1940 khaki tropical shirt, M1940 reed-green fatigue jacket, M1941 AFV overalls, M1941 reed-green shirt, sheepskin overcoat, M1941 and M1942 Panzer denim jacket, M1942 reversible and camouflage winter tunic, M1942 camouflage smock, M1943 hooded camouflage smock, M1942 reed-green drill field tunic, and M1943 mountain troops' anorak, all manufactured without fastenings for shoulder boards and shoulder straps. Lower ranks (Stabsgefreiter - Obergrenadier) normally omitted their arm rank insignia, except on the M1935 grey Panzer shirt and M1940 khaki tropical shirt.

Rank titles are shown first for German line infantry, secondly in brackets for Specialist Officers (Sonderführer), introduced 10 August 1944, and thirdly in italics for Military Officials (1942 Field Post titles are given as examples) introduced 15 July 1943.

1. Generalfeldmarschall

2. Generaloberst

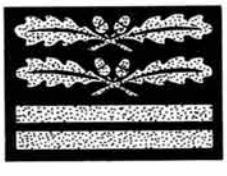


3. General der Infanterie
(Ministerialdirektor[1])

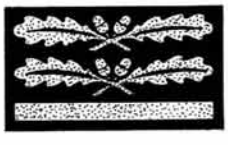
4. Generalleutnant
Heeresfeldpostmeister

5. Generalmajor
Heeresfeldpostdirigent

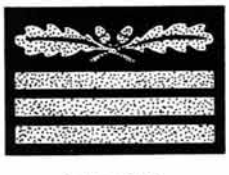
6. Oberst
Feldoberpostdirektor



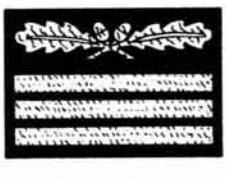
7. Oberstleutnant
Feldpostoberrat



8. Major
Feldpostrat
(Bataillonsführer)



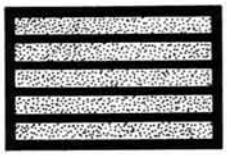
9. Hauptmann
Feldpostrat (unter 35 J.)
(Kompanieführer)



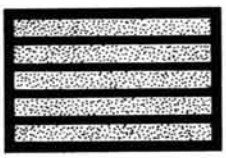
10. Oberleutnant
Feldpostinspektor

11. Leutnant
Feldpostsekretär
(Zugführer)

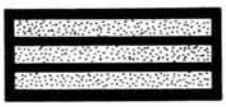
12. Oberfähnrich[1]



13. Stabsfeldwebel



14. Oberfeldwebel
Oberfähnrich
Feldpostassistent



15. Feldwebel
Feldpostbetriebsassistent

16. Unterfeldwebel
Feldpostbote

17. Unteroffizier

The rank insignia consisted of 8.5 - 9.5 cm wide insignia on 9-10cm wide cloth rectangles of varying heights. Colours and materials were:-

1-5: White thread batons and pips, gold-yellow braid and thread leaves, on a black cloth rectangle.

6-17: Green braid and thread leaves on a black cloth rectangle, or green bars and leaves printed on a black cotton rectangle.

Footnotes

1 Court Martial Official rank, in the absence of an equivalent Field Post rank.

2 Unofficial insignia more accurately reflecting the rank's status.

Generals enjoyed greater latitude in their interpretation of uniform regulations. After distinguished service in North Africa, Generalmajor Fritz Bayerlein was appointed to command the newly formed élite Panzer-Lehr-Division on 10 January 1944. He is shown here in Hungary in April 1944, wearing an officers' M1935 field tunic with general officers' gold *Alt-Larisch* embroidery on bright red collar patches; and a standard M1943 field cap without generals' gold wire crown and flap-front pipings, but with an unofficial gilded aluminium eagle and swastika taken from a M1937 white undress tunic. His M1940 greatcoat does not appear to have the generals' bright red facing cloth lapel linings. He wears the Knight's Cross with Oak-leaves. (Author's collection)

The M1935 steel helmet, painted matt greenish-grey with roughened surfaces, had a silver/white on black Wehrmacht eagle decal on the left side, abolished 28 August 1943. The M1942 helmet, introduced 20 April 1942, abandoned the edge-crimping to simplify production; this was not common in the field until 1943. The peakless M1938 officers' *feldgrau* tricot field cap had aluminium thread pipings, and an aluminium wire embroidered cockade below an aluminium thread eagle on a bluish dark green backing, in gold thread or celleon for general officers. The M1934 'old style' peaked field cap, officially abolished 1 April 1942, was worn by some officers and NCOs until May 1945. Some officers wore the other ranks' M1942 field cap unofficially, with aluminium piping (gold for general officers). Officers also wore the M1943 peaked field cap with aluminium (gold or celleon for general officers) cord crown piping, and occasionally the other ranks' eagle and cockade.

Subalterns acting as infantry platoon leaders wore the other ranks' black belt supporting the 84/98 bayonet and scabbard in the M1939 bayonet-frog, usually secured to the case of the short shovel or M1938 folding shovel; the M1941 canvas bread bag; the M1931 canteen and cup; and the leather M1935 dispatch case. The black leather M1920 'officers' support straps' secured two sets of three first pattern greenish-brown *feldgrau* canvas M38/40 ammunition pouches for the MP38 or MP40 sub-machine gun. The anti-gas cape in a greenish-brown or *feldgrau* rubberized canvas or linen pouch was usually tied with rubber bands or straps to a *feldgrau*-painted M1930 gas mask canister slung from a shoulder by a strap or strapped to the bread bag. Zeiß 6x30 binoculars were carried on the chest, a signal whistle was secured to a breast pocket button by a plaited lanyard, and a flashlight hung from a shoulder strap button.

Other ranks' field uniform

Other ranks wore the service uniform, increasingly with anklets and lace-up ankle boots, adding the steel helmet and omitting the service peaked cap, except for some NCOs who wore the M1934 'old style' peaked field cap. Technical and senior NCOs carried a pistol in a black holster; and NCOs acting as infantry platoon leaders or section leaders wore the same equipment as subaltern platoon leaders, but with the other ranks' M1939 infantry support Y-straps.

The other ranks' M1944 field uniform was identical to the officers', with plain *feldgrau 44* round-ended shoulder straps with branch-colour piping, M1940 *feldgrau* 'guards braids' sewn directly onto the collar, and the other ranks' M1944 mouse-grey eagle on a *feldgrau* woven triangle; NCOs did not wear collar edging braid.

Most NCOs and men wore the standard rifleman's equipment. The waist belt carried the 84/98 bayonet, M1938 folding shovel, M1931/M1944 bread bag, M1931 canteen and cup. The M1939 infantry support Y-straps and supplementary D-ring straps supported two sets of three rifle ammunition pouches at the front, and at the back the M1939 *feldgrau* canvas A-frame, carrying the M1931 greenish-brown painted aluminium mess kit (pot and frying-pan/lid); the M1931 camouflage shelter-quarter; the canvas battle pack bag, and the gas cape strapped to the gas mask canister when not worn on the canister shoulder sling. The equipment worn by the three-man section light machine-gun team is described in Volume 1 (Men-at-Arms 311).

Summer field uniform

In summer 1941 many troops adopted as a summer field uniform the M1940 fatigue uniform, first ordered 12 February 1940, consisting of the reed-green cotton herringbone twill tunic with five buttons and two patch hip pockets, and trousers. Officers and NCOs added shoulder strap rank insignia, and all ranks wore the breast-eagle.

The M1941 reed-green pullover-style cotton shirt was introduced in early 1942 for use in warm weather as an outer garment. It had five white plastic buttons and from mid-1942 two breast pockets, with or without a centre pleat, and triangular pocket flaps. Field-quality shoulder board and shoulder strap rank insignia and arm chevrons were worn until May 1945, although from 22 August 1942 the special arm rank insignia were officially prescribed.

The M1942 reed-green herringbone twill tunic, introduced in early 1942 but not common until summer 1943, had the same cut as the M1943 field tunic, with pleatless breast pockets with straight flaps. Field-quality rank insignia and breast-eagles were worn; officers wore their M1935 collar patches, NCOs and men M1940 *feldgrau* 'guards braids' sewn directly onto the collar. Matching trousers appeared in 1943. On 25 September 1944 a reed-green drill version of the M1944 field blouse and trousers was authorized but was almost certainly never produced.

A major commanding an Assault Artillery Brigade – a Knight's Cross holder – confers with a battery commander, April 1944. The former wears a M1943 field cap without regulation officers' aluminium wire piping; and a M1940 special field grey jacket with M1935 officers' collar patches (these were ordered changed to *feldgrau* patches piped red on 7 May 1944). The battery commander wears the 'old style' field cap and the M1934 rubberized field greatcoat for motorcyclists; a field flashlight is hung by its tab from a button. (Brian Davis)

Winter clothing

Winter uniform items, first issued before March 1942, consisted of the *feldgrau* tube-shaped woollen balaclava; extra-thick woollen underwear; the M1936 and M1942 sweaters; *feldgrau* woollen mittens: the *feldgrau* sentry's double-breasted guard coat and felt overshoes; the vehicle crew's M1934 or M1940 surcoat; fur-lined mittens; and the drivers' and motorcyclists' overgloves. Many troops improvised, with civilian fleece coats and captured Red Army fleece caps and padded field uniforms. Other issue winter clothing consisted of sheepskin overcoats; fur caps; plain brown quilted jacket and trousers worn over the field uniform and under the greatcoat; leather-reinforced felt calf-boots; and mountain troops' pre-war issue calf-length white cotton 'snow shirts'. The M1933 cream or off-white cotton herringbone twill fatigue tunic and trousers, worn over the field uniform, provided makeshift snow camouflage. The neck of the M1942 polo-neck sweater, introduced early 1943, could be pulled up over the mouth for warmth.

The M1942 padded reversible white/*feldgrau* winter tunic (Winteranzug) was issued from autumn 1942 in light weight (one thin white cloth layer and two thick *feldgrau*); medium (one thin white and two thick *feldgrau*, woollen lining); and heavy weight (one white and one *feldgrau* heavy cotton twill layers, with quilted wadding interlining). The tunic was thigh length, with waist and sleeve drawcords, six white/*feldgrau* pebbled buttons, two slash waist pockets with diagonal

flaps and buttons, and an integral hood with a drawcord. A small button on each upper arm secured coloured cloth field signs to distinguish German troops from their Red Army adversaries. The M1942 trousers in the same reversible materials had two slash thigh pockets with diagonal flaps and buttons, a crutch strap, and drawcords at the ankles. M1942 reversible mittens and M1942 stiff waterproof impregnated leather-reinforced white felt snow boots were worn with this uniform, as well as the unpopular reversible separate hood and face mask.

Four other types of specially designed snow camouflage uniforms were manufactured from late 1942 and in service from early 1943. The loose four-buttoned M1942 snow coverall with side slash vents was worn over the field uniform and greatcoat. The M1942 two-piece snow suit consisted of a three-buttoned loose cotton tunic with extra-long sleeves, integral hood and trousers, which could be washed easily when dirty. The M1942 mountain troops' snow uniform, consisting of a reversible white/*feldgrau* impregnated woven anorak and over-trousers, was issued to all types of combat troops. The thigh-length M1942 anorak had an integral hood with a drawcord, waist and sleeve drawcords, a short neck vent with six sets of lace holes secured by a cord and a three-buttoned flap, above a large pleatless central chest pocket with a triangular buttoned flap flanked by two smaller pleated pockets, with two similar pleated side pockets, and arm-buttons for field signs. The over-trousers had drawcords at the ankles.

April 1944: a Gefreiter of infantry wearing a M1942 greatcoat with wide collar, M1940 shoulder straps piped with infantry white, M1935 arm rank badge of bright aluminium braid on a dark green facing cloth triangle, and the Kuban campaign shield. (Brian Davis)

Camouflage uniforms

The Italian Army had begun issuing camouflage shelter-halves in the 1920s, but on 26 June 1930 the German Army first issued the M1931 triangular shelter-quarter (Zeltbahn 31) in tightly woven cotton drill. It was finished in the reversible first pattern light/dark green-brown-khaki angular 'splinter' scheme, for use as part of a tent or as a rain cape over field equipment; from 1939 it was also seen used as a summer camouflage cape under field equipment.

The M1942 collarless reversible Zeltbahn 31 camouflage/white smock, in cotton drill in a herringbone twill weave, was inspired by the M1938 Waffen-SS smock; worn over the field uniform, it saw limited issue from about April 1942. It was closed at the chest by a cord passing through five sets of holes; two breast slits with vertical or diagonal buttoned or buttonless openings gave access to the field tunic breast pockets; it had a waist drawcord, often two side pockets with diagonal buttoned flaps, and buttoned cuffs. The M1942 arm rank insignia was prescribed but often omitted. Over-trousers in the same material, and cut as for the M1942 snow uniform, were worn. The first pattern M1942 Zeltbahn 31 camouflage/white helmet cover was followed by a second pattern with five to seven cloth foliage loops on the camouflage side. Both patterns were secured to the helmet by a drawstring under the rim.

A few M1942 padded reversible white/*feldgrau* winter tunics, trousers and mittens were produced in reversible Zeltbahn 31 camouflage/white from April 1942 and worn from winter 1942-43, as were a non-reversible winter tunic in Zeltbahn 31 and 'marsh pattern' versions. The M1944 camouflage apron was a sleeveless, pocketless smock, closed at the chest by a buttoned flap, in Zeltbahn 31 or marsh pattern herringbone twill.

Later production smocks and winter tunics were produced in 'marsh

An Obergefreiter of a self-propelled anti-tank unit, September 1944. He wears the M1940 special field grey uniform with pink-piped *feldgrau* skull collar patches; a M1940 mouse-grey braid breast-eagle; no less than four Tank Destruction Badges for single-handed successes with hand-held weapons; the Iron Cross 1st Class medal and 2nd Class ribbon, and an unidentified metal badge. On his M1935 field cap he still wears the pink branch-colour chevron, ordered removed 10 July 1942. (Brian Davis)

pattern' camouflage – brown and green on khaki or greyish-green background; in second pattern M1943 angular 'splinter', issued mid-1943; and in a third pattern M1944 rounded 'blotch' version from mid-1944. The M1943 non-reversible smock in marsh pattern camouflage only, with six pairs of chest button holes and an integral hood, was issued to snipers and some Panzergrenadier units.

Personnel of the Luftwaffe field divisions, transferring to the Army in September 1943, often retained their distinctive M1942 thigh-length over-jackets in heavy duty windproof herringbone twill in the paratroopers' intricate Luftwaffe 'splinter' camouflage or marsh pattern; these had five front buttons, buttoned cuffs, and two concealed thigh pockets with straight buttoned flaps; shoulder rank insignia and breast-eagles were applied.

The camouflage uniforms proved very popular and some troops, especially officers, wore privately tailored M1943 field tunics and M1940 trousers, M1944 field tunics and trousers, and M1940 special armoured crews' tunics and trousers made up in Zeltbahn 31 or marsh pattern herringbone twill.

Rank insignia

The officers' shoulder boards, NCOs' shoulder straps and mens' arm chevrons are covered in detail in Volume 1 (Men-at-Arms 311).

On 22 August 1942 new arm rank insignia, inspired by the M1935 Luftwaffe flying suit insignia, were ordered introduced for wear on the upper left sleeve; these are shown in Table 1. The insignia were not in widespread use until 1944, and even then were relatively unpopular. Troops often omitted them from the winter tunics and anoraks, and instead attached shoulder boards and shoulder straps to the grey, khaki and reed-green shirts, fatigue jackets and drill tunics.

Branch insignia

A selective list of branch insignia is shown in Table 3. By 1944 the German High Command recognized that the open wearing of unit insignia, officially permitted since 1939 for élite units such as Großdeutschland, had the advantages of improved morale and quick identification of personnel by military police; these now outweighed the disadvantage of compromised field security, as the general military situation was deteriorating remorselessly. Therefore, on 16 February 1944, all troops of the Field and Replacement Armies were ordered to wear full branch-colour chainstitch branch and unit insignia on *feldgrau* (or Panzer black) slip-on shoulder loops. Most officers and senior NCOs simply fixed the gold or silver metal letters and numbers already permitted when not in the field; and in fact there are many instances of troops wearing unit insignia in the field before the official authorization date.

Special black uniform and insignia for tank crews

Most personnel in Panzer regiments and many on divisional staffs wore the black uniform introduced 12 November 1934, consisting of the helmet or field cap, field jacket and trousers, dark grey shirt, black tie and black lace-up boots or marching-boots (the latter ordered retained only by Armoured Engineer Companies after 18 January 1941).

The black M1940 officers' field cap, with aluminium thread cord crown and front flap piping, and the M1940 other ranks' field cap both had the branch-colour chevron removed by an order of 10 July 1942. A black wool version of the M1942 other ranks' field cap saw limited issue. The order of 11 June 1943 authorizing the standard *feldgrau* M1943 peaked field cap prescribed a black cloth version for Panzer troops. Officers and NCOs also favoured the *feldgrau* officers' M1935 peaked service cap, M1934 peaked field cap or M1938 field cap, or the other ranks' M1935 peaked service cap or M1934 field cap, despite regulations expressly forbidding their use.

The M1942 black wool double-breasted field jacket had a wide collar (though narrower than the M1934/M1936 versions) with three lapel button holes, no collar piping, four large buttons and three small buttons. All ranks wore the black rectangular collar patch piped in pink branch-colour with applied aluminium skull. The 24th Panzer Division staff, its Panzer Regiment and Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion, and other Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion staffs and Armoured Car Company crews, wore instead the golden-yellow cavalry branch colour; Panzer Division Anti-Tank Battalions wore pink Waffenfarbe; the Führer Escort Battalion Tank Company and Armoured Car Platoon wore white; Armoured Engineer Companies, white and black twist; and Armoured Signals Battalions, lemon-yellow. Some troops had their uniforms privately modified by unit or local civilian tailors, adding extra internal jacket or trouser pockets and replacing buttons with zips.

Armoured vehicle crews and mechanics, and Armoured Artillery and Rocket-Launcher crews, were issued cotton one-piece overalls in mouse-grey, *feldgrau*, off-white, light brown and reed-green, and these were sometimes dyed black by Panzer crews. Troops usually added shoulder straps and chevrons of rank and a breast-eagle in preference to the M1942 arm rank insignia.

The overalls proved unpopular, and from 5 May 1941 crews of Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion armoured car companies wore the M1941 Panzer denim uniform in reed-green herringbone twill or in white or mouse-grey cotton as a fatigue and summer field uniform. This consisted of a jacket, cut like the M1936 black jacket but with seven small buttons and one internal breast pocket. Black uniform collar patches and shoulder straps were often applied (although in theory superseded by the M1942 arm rank insignia), as was a breast-eagle on a uniform-colour backing; there was no collar piping. The trousers were cut like the M1934 black trousers.

This uniform proved so popular that the M1942 Panzer denim uniform in reed-green

An indifferent photograph, but an intensely dramatic subject. This officer, having lost his left arm in combat as a tank commander, was recalled to the colours in September 1944 as the operations officer (1a) on the staff of a newly formed Volksgrenadier-Division, with the rank of Major im Generalstab. He wears the 'old style' field cap; M1942 reversible padded winter tunic with Zeltbahn 31 camouflage cloth outermost; and reinforced cavalry breeches with General Staff crimson piping and stripes. (Author's collection)

These two infantrymen in a Volksgrenadier-Division personify the image of the German soldier of the late war period. The soldier at left – apparently, the former conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic choir – wears the M1943 field cap, M1942 greatcoat, leather M1939 Y-straps, M1931 mess kit, and carries an MP38 sub-machine gun with leather magazine pouches. His comrade – a chartered engineer – carries a M1935 dispatch case under his M1942 greatcoat. (Author's collection)

LEFT **A platoon commander, left, of the 49th Jäger Regiment, 28th Jäger Division in East Prussia, September 1944, briefs his NCOs. The usual M1942 other ranks' tunic with green officers' collar facing displays lieutenants' shoulder boards, collar patches and breast eagle, and the M1942 Jäger arm badge. The sergeant, right, has been accepted as an officer candidate (Fahnenjunker-Feldwebel), identified by the double NCO braid loop round his shoulder straps; on the collar of his M1942 tunic are M1938 *feldgrau* 'guards braids' with dark green centre-stripes on a dark green patch. The Oberjäger, centre, also wears the M1942 field tunic. All three wear the M1943 field cap, the sergeant's showing the M1942 aluminium badge for Jäger units. (Brian Davis)**

herringbone twill was manufactured for all armoured vehicle crews and mechanics. This comprised a loose-fitting jacket with a large left breast pocket with buttoned scalloped flap, and two parallel rows of five buttons on the right side; the trousers had a large left thigh pocket. This suit was for wear over the special black or field-grey uniform in cold weather, and was often worn instead of them in summer.

Special field-grey uniform and insignia

The special *feldgrau* M1940 version of the black Panzer field uniform issued to Assault Artillery Battalions consisted of the M1940 *feldgrau* field jacket cut like the M1936 black jacket but without branch-colour collar piping, and with field tunic breast-eagles. Officers wore standard M1935 officers' collar patches, NCOs and men M1940 mouse-grey standard 'guards braids' on a *feldgrau* backing sewn onto rectangular collar patches piped in the bright red branch-colour. The M1940 *feldgrau* trousers were cut like M1934 black trousers; Panzer grey shirt, black tie and black lace-up boots were also worn. Headgear was the officers' M1938 field cap, other ranks' M1934 or M1942 field cap, M1943 peaked field cap, or steel helmet.

Before long this stylish uniform was already being worn by other units with appropriate branch-colour collar patch pipings, shoulder boards and shoulder straps. Armoured Engineer vehicle crews wore it with black Waffenfarbe, and self-propelled Armoured Artillery units with bright red. Normal towed Anti-Tank units and self-propelled Anti-Tank units in Infantry, Rifle or Mountain divisions or Army or Corps units wore it with the skulls on *feldgrau* collar patches piped pink. Self-propelled Anti-Tank units in Panzer or Panzergrenadier divisions or in Army or Corps units equipped with the Elefant (Ferdinand) self-propelled gun wore it with standard pink-piped black Panzer skull patches.

From 5 March 1943 crews of Anti-Tank and Infantry Gun companies mounted on half-tracks in infantry and armoured infantry units adopted this uniform with white or grass-green branch colours respectively. From 12 May 1943 Armoured Train platoons changed from the black to the field-grey special uniform with pink Waffenfarbe; Army Anti-Aircraft units adopted the uniform with bright red piping, and Armoured Rocket-Launcher batteries with bordeaux red. Signals (not Armoured Signals) personnel in armoured vehicles wore the uniform with a skull on *feldgrau* patches piped lemon-yellow; and from 1 June 1943 some personnel in the mounted Cavalry Regiments wore it with a skull on *feldgrau* patches piped golden-yellow. From September 1943 the 1st Ski Brigade wore the special field-grey uniform with M1935 officers' collar patches piped grass-green and standard M1940 other ranks' patches.

Troops entitled to the special field-grey uniform also wore the reed-green fatigue and summer field uniform with appropriate branch insignia.

Special uniforms and insignia for other branches

From 25 April 1944 only general officers of combat troops were allowed to wear bright red collar patches, shoulder board underlay and greatcoat lapel linings. **General officers of the 'special careers'** were required to substitute their branch colours (but retained their bright red trouser pipings and stripes) before

30 September 1944; but on 24 October 1944 this was effectively postponed until 1945. This order applied to general officers of the Medical Corps (dark blue branch colour), Veterinary Corps (crimson), Ordnance Corps (orange), Motor Park Troops (pink), Legal Service (bordeaux red), and Administrative Service (light blue).

October 1944: an Oberst commanding a Panzer-Regiment, decorated with the Knight's Cross with Oak-leaves and Swords. He wears the M1942 special black Panzer tunic, and M1940 officers' black field cap still with the pink branch-colour chevron officially discontinued in July 1942. His colleagues both wear the M1942 reversible padded winter tunic, the officer at left in M1944 'blotch marsh pattern' camouflage, the officer at right in M1943 'splinter marsh pattern'. (Brian Davis)

From 21 August 1944 the **1st Ski Brigade (later Division)** wore the Jägers' M1942 oak-leaf field cap badge with a ski superimposed (but never wore the Jägers' arm badge modified with crossed red or white skis which was prescribed, instead retaining the M1942 Jäger arm badge).

From 1941 personnel of German units, usually Panzer and motorized divisions, were seen wearing **unofficial formation badges** on field uniforms, usually aluminium reproductions of the divisional vehicle sign. Typically these were applied to the left side of field caps, including the M1934 'old style' peaked field cap, just above the left ear. Divisions serving on the Eastern and Balkan Fronts in 1943-45 which are known to have worn such badges include: (Arctic Front) 2nd Mountain – deer's head; (Northern Front) 290th Infantry – sword; 5 Mountain – chamois; (Central Front) 20th Panzergrenadier – anchor; 34th Infantry – white and blue shield; (Southern Front) 1st Panzer – oak-leaf; 19th Panzer – wolf's hook rune on parallelogram; 22nd Panzer – arrow; 23rd Panzer – arrow with crossbar; 4th Mountain – blue gentian flower.

The six **élite divisions** continued to develop distinctive insignia, and general officers of these formations often unofficially wore aluminium shoulder board monograms. Großdeutschland personnel wore the GD shoulder board/strap monogram, in branch-colour chainstitch for junior NCOs and men; and the third pattern black right cuff band with a hand- or machine-embroidered aluminium thread cursive '*Großdeutschland*' title and edging, introduced on 7 October 1940. From 20 December 1944 all members of Panzerkorps Großdeutschland wore these distinctions except the Brandenburg Division, which from 17 August 1944 was authorized a machine-embroidered aluminium or light-grey Gothic '*Brandenburg*' title and edging on a bluish dark green right cuff band, the 1st and 2nd Rifle Regiments wearing Rifle and Mountain insignia respectively.

Officers of the Führer-Begleit-Bataillon/Regiment/Division attached to Hitler's personal staff wore the GD monogram and on the left cuff the '*Führer-Hauptquartier*' title, other personnel of this unit substituting the '*Großdeutschland*' cuff title. From 16 September 1943 the Führer-

NORTHERN AND CENTRAL FRONT, SPRING 1943

1: Leutnant, Panzergrenadier-Regiment 2; Rzhev Salient, March 1943

2: Hauptmann, Artillerie-Regiment 240; Leningrad, February 1943

3: Grenadier, Grenadier-Regiment 474; Demyansk, February 1943

SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL FRONT, SUMMER 1943

1: Obergefreiter, Panzer-Regiment 15; Kursk, July 1943

2: Oberfüsilier, Füsilier-Regiment 202; Kiev, September 1943

3: Unteroffizier, Grenadier-Regiment 37; Kursk, July 1943

WINTER 1943-1944

1: Obergefreiter, Grenadier-Regiment 163; Orsha, October 1943

2: Leutnant, Jäger-Regiment 204; Nikopol, January 1944

3: Panzergrenadier, Panzergrenadier-Regiment 146; Kamenets-Podol'skiy, March 1944

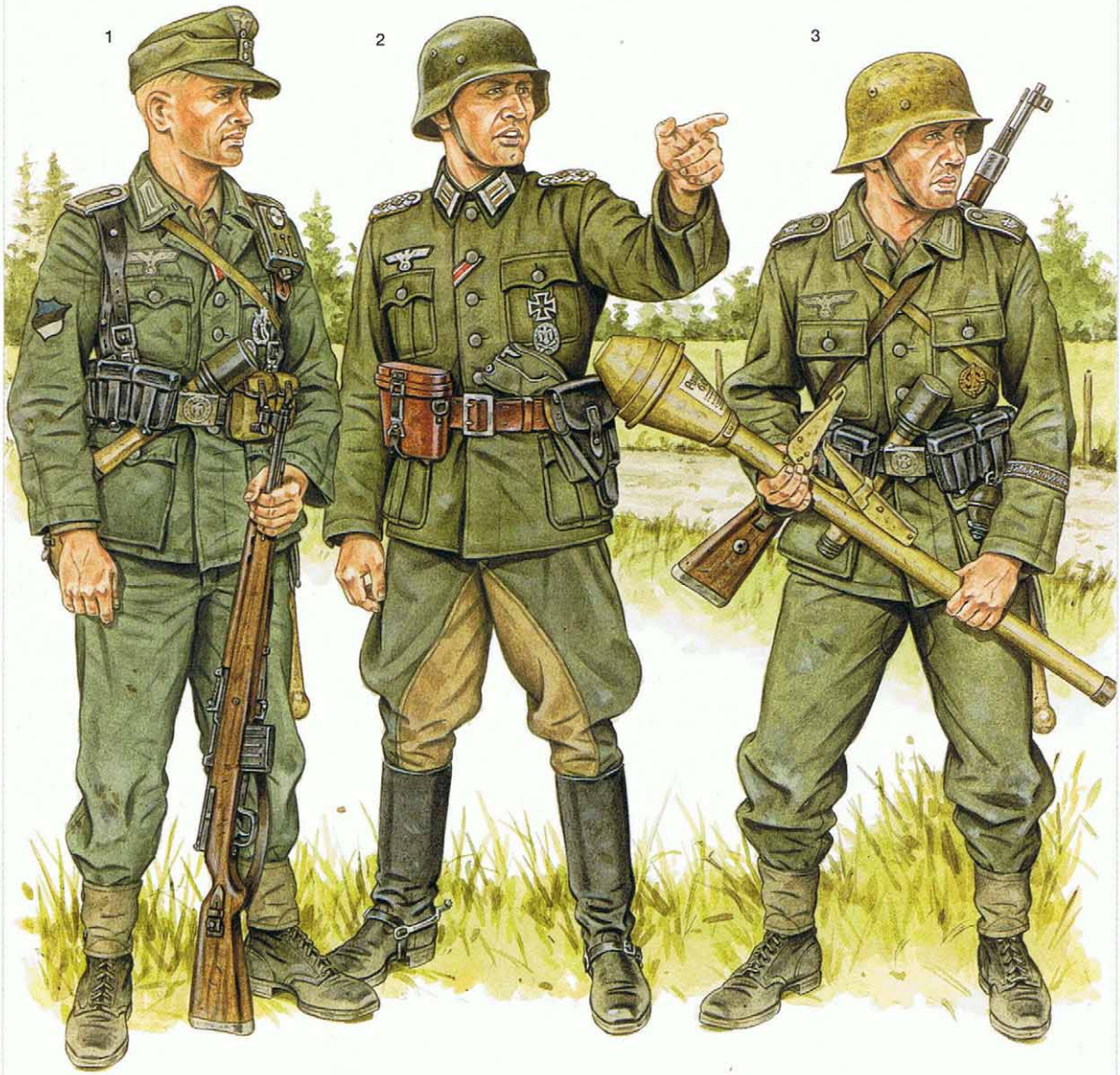
C

NORTHERN AND CENTRAL FRONTS, 1944

1: Unterfeldwebel, Estnische Bataillon 659; Narva, April 1944

2: Oberst, Kavallerie-Regiment Mitte; Pinsk, April 1944

3: Füsilier, Füsilier-Regiment Feldherrnhalle; Minsk, July 1944



CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FRONTS, 1944

1: Gefreiter, Panzergrenadier-Regiment 103; Rumania, August 1944

2: Generalmajor, 454.Sicherungs-Division; Brody, July 1944

3: Panzergrenadier, Panzergrenadier-Regiment 73; Warsaw, September 1944

WINTER 1944-1945

1: Oberleutnant, Grenadier-Regiment 236; East Prussia, December 1944

2: Fahrer, Fahrschwadron 1/227; Latvia, December 1944

3: Oberjäger, Skijäger-Regiment 1; Slovakia, February 1945

SOUTHERN FRONT, 1945

1: Oberfeldwebel, Panzer-Pionier Bataillon 124; Vienna, April 1945

2: Oberleutnant, Panzer-Regiment 1; Hungary, March 1945

3: Stabsarzt, Sanitätskompanie 178; Czechoslovakia, May 1945

CENTRAL FRONT, 1945

1: Leutnant, Grenadier-Regiment 1099; Stettin, April 1945

2: Grenadier, Grenadier-Regiment 1075; Berlin, April 1945

3: Feldwebel, Panzergrenadier-Regiment Müncheberg 1; Seelow Heights, April 1945

1 2 3

Grenadier-Bataillon/Brigade/Division wore the Großdeutschland cuff-title and a FG shoulder monogram, replaced by the GD monogram on 19 August 1944 and removed on 26 January 1945. The planned Führer-Grenadier-Division cuff title was never manufactured.

The Feldherrnhalle Division wore the Feldherrnhalle Regiment's brown cuff band and woven title on the left cuff, and on 20 June 1943 added a shoulder monogram – the SA monogram on three victory runes (Siegrunen), all on a vertical victory rune, worn from 27 November 1944 by all Panzerkorps Feldherrnhalle personnel. From 31 December 1943 Hoch- und Deutschmeister personnel wore a grey aluminium 'Stalingrad Cross' on their shoulder boards/straps, and from 26 February 1945 a bluish dark green cloth cuff title with a silver-grey machine-embroidered edging and *'Hoch- und Deutschmeister'* title in Gothic script; an alternative was a black title with Roman script.

On 12 December 1943 the 199th Grenadier Regiment (from 31 August 1944, 19th Grenadier Regiment) was awarded a bluish dark green cuff-title with a matt grey or silver-grey machine-embroidered edging and title *'INFANTERIE-REGIMENT LIST'* in cursive hand-written capitals, worn on the right cuff to perpetuate the traditions of Hitler's old Great War regiment. The *'Generaloberst Dietl'* cuff title – awarded 12 August 1944 to 139th Mountain Brigade to commemorate that distinguished mountain general, killed in an accident on 23 June 1944 – was probably never issued to the unit. A locally-manufactured silver/white cuff band, with black edging and *KURLAND* between the Teutonic Order shield and a silver-white elk's head on a black shield (the badge of Liepāja town), was awarded 12 March 1945 to all Army Group Kurland personnel.

A tank crew photographed in January 1945; most are wearing the M1942 padded reversible winter suit with M1940 or M1943 Panzer field caps, or M1935 *feldgrau* field caps. The officer has applied major's M1942 sleeve ranking to his privately acquired collarless sheepskin jacket. (Brian Davis)

Cavalry Regiment Nord (formed 1 June 1943) had unofficially worn the aluminium 'Prussian skull' cap badge of its predecessor 5th Cavalry Regiment below the service cap eagle and the field cap one-piece eagle and cockade, a practice officially sanctioned 27 August 1944. On 3 June 1944 it was renamed 5th Cavalry Regiment, and on 4 December 1944 awarded a black left cuff band with a silver-grey machine-embroidered edging and title *'FELDMARSCHALL VON MACKENSEN'*, to commemorate the distinguished Great War cavalry general. From 29 December 1944 the skull was worn as a shoulder board/strap badge, but was removed in 1945 to avoid captured cavalrymen being mistaken for Waffen-SS troops. Armoured units of this regiment wore the black Panzer uniform. Cavalry Regiment Süd (also formed 1 June 1943, and on 26 May 1944 redesignated 41st Cavalry Regiment) wore the

Troops of the ROA 1st Division parade before *General-Leytenant* A.A.Vlasov at Munsingen training camp, south-west Germany, on 10 February 1945. They wear M1942 collarless reversible white/Zeltbahn 31 camouflage smocks and trousers over field uniform. The three officers in the foreground, giving the 'German salute' practised by the ROA from July 1944 to February 1945, wear officers' service caps with the eagle and swastika above the ROA cockade (worn by personnel granted German rank insignia), and carry obsolete 9mm MP34/1 Bergmann sub-machine guns. The troops carry 98k rifles and Panzerfaust 60s. (Friedrich Herrmann)

aluminium 'Brunswick skull' cap badge of the former 3rd Cavalry Regiment; and Cavalry Regiment Mitte (formed 1 April 1944), the 'dragoon eagle' of the former 6th Cavalry Regiment.

On 27 August 1944 all personnel of the 3rd Cavalry Brigade (formed in March 1944 from Mitte) adopted the dragoon eagle badge; and 4th Cavalry Bde. (5th & 41st Cav. Regts.), except for 5th Cav. Regt., the Brunswick skull. 4th Cavalry Division (5th & 41st Cav.Regts.), formed February 1945 from 4th Cav.Bde., wore on the left upper sleeve two black horses' heads on a golden-yellow shield edged black. Also in 1945, I Cavalry Corps staff and HQ troops unofficially wore on the left upper sleeve a golden-yellow rectangle edged black with four black horseshoes between two black Ks below a black pennant.

Army Patrol Service personnel wore their original uniforms with obsolete matt aluminium thread M1920 adjutants' aiguillettes at the right shoulder. From 17 October 1941 Station Guard officers wore the brown service belt and crossbelt, other personnel an aluminium duty gorget suspended around the neck by a chain, with the inscription *'Bahnhofswache'* with the Army District number and unit number in Roman and Arabic numerals respectively. Railway Guard personnel had the duty gorget with the inscription *'Zugwachabteilung'* and an Arabic battalion number. Army members of the Wehrmacht Patrol Service wore the M1935 officers' ceremonial aiguillettes, and on the left upper sleeve a white armband with an official stamp and *'Wehrmacht/Streifendienst'* in black Gothic or Roman letters. HQ guards wore an aluminium duty gorget with the inscription *'Kommandantur'* and an Arabic unit number.

Field Police wore a Military Police duty gorget with the inscription *'Feldjägerkorps'* and on the left upper or lower sleeve a red armband with an official stamp and *'Oberkommando der Wehrmacht/Feldjäger'* in black Roman letters. Military Police retained their M1939 duty gorget, but from 19 March 1944 removed their M1939 arm badge and cuff-title to avoid reprisals when captured.

Uniforms and insignia of European volunteers

European volunteers wore German uniforms and insignia, and a black machine-woven arm shield with the name of the country of origin above the national flag colours; a shield-shaped decal depicting the flag was sometimes worn on the right side of the steel helmet.

Spanish Blue Division and Legion troops wore a yellow *ESPAÑA* and a red/yellow/red horizontally striped shield on the right upper sleeve, and a helmet decal. Croatian Legion troops wore a red *HRVATSKA* or

KROATIEN (often deleted by German cadre personnel) above a red/white chequered shield on the right upper sleeve (but by many officers, on the left), and a helmet decal. French troops wore a white *FRANCE* and a blue/white/red vertically striped shield on the right upper sleeve, and a helmet decal. Walloon troops wore a yellow *WALLONIE* above a black/yellow/red vertically striped shield on the left upper sleeve, and a helmet decal; they were issued the mountain field cap, *edelweiss* cap and right upper sleeve badges, and wore light green branch colour.

Similarly shaped machine-embroidered arm patches were manufactured for Rumanian troops serving in the German Army – *ROMANIA* above a shield vertically divided yellow/blue/red; for Hungarians – *UNGARN* above a vertically divided shield with (left) white/red stripes and (right) a double-branched cross on green hills on red; and for Slovaks – *SLOWAKEI* above a double-branched cross above three blue hills on a red shield. Bulgarians were prescribed a plain straight-sided shield diagonally striped white/red/green. However, issue of these four shields to Army personnel is unconfirmed.

A *mayor* of the Russian Liberation Army, right, photographed while questioning a Soviet prisoner. He wears an ROA cockade on his cap (apparently a Bergmütze); and a M1940 other ranks' field tunic with officers' dark green collar, ROA collar patches, and dark green ROA armshield. Note that he has been deemed worthy to wear German shoulder boards of rank. At left is a specialist officer (Sonderführer), an interpreter second lieutenant – Dolmetscher (Z) – from a mountain infantry unit. He wears specialist officers' shoulder boards and collar patches, and an *edelweiss* badge on his field cap. (Brian Davis)

Uniforms and insignia of Osttruppen

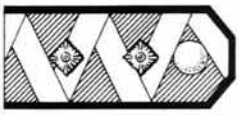
Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian troops wore standard German uniforms, cap badges, breast-eagles, collar and rank insignia. Some Estonian troops unofficially wore on the right upper arm the Estonian Police armshield – diagonal blue/black/white stripes with yellow edging and three yellow lions. From about mid-1943 Baltic troops were authorized on the right upper sleeve a cloth armshield with curved sides and a scalloped top, and diagonal stripes in national colours – blue/black/white (Estonia), dark red/white/dark red (Latvia), and yellow/green/red (Lithuania). Cockades in these colours were worn on the field cap.

From 29 April 1943 'Hiwis' wore German Army uniforms; and from 1 July 1944 they could be promoted as far as Unteroffizier. National shields, field cap cockades and ROA rank and collar insignia were officially prescribed for Russians, Belorussians and Ukrainians, but standard German insignia were usually worn. Poles wore the *'Im Dienst der deutschen Wehrmacht'* armband.

From January 1943 ROA personnel in the Eastern Battalions and the later infantry divisions wore standard German uniforms with special insignia, and could be promoted to general officer rank. Cap insignia for officers comprised a Tsarist-style blue oval cockade with a red centre and silver rays; those for NCOs and men, a plain oval blue and red cockade. The modified Tsarist rank insignia and collar insignia are illustrated in Table 2. The armshield, usually worn on the left upper sleeve, was a bluish dark green rounded shield with a straight top and machine-embroidered, printed or woven insignia consisting of a yellow 'POA' (i.e. ROA in Cyrillic

TABLE 2: INSIGNIA OF THE RUSSIAN LIBERATION ARMY (ROA) AND COSSACK UNITS
JANUARY 1943 – 17 MARCH 1944

Rank titles: 1st line - ROA; 2nd line (in brackets) - Cossacks; 3rd line *(Italics)* - German infantry 1943-45.
ROA colours: 1-3 - bluish dark green strap, gold button, red piping, gold zig-zag braid, silver pips; 4-9 - bluish dark green strap, *feldgrau* button, red piping and centre-stripes, gold pips; 10 - aluminium sleeve braid; 11 - *feldgrau* strap piped in German branch-colour, *feldgrau* button, aluminium braid, silver pips; 12-17 - bluish dark green strap, *feldgrau* button, red piping, aluminium bars; 18 - dark blue, red centre, silver rays; 20 - dark blue, red centre; 21-22 - red centre, bluish dark green patch, aluminium braid, *feldgrau* button, silver wire piping. **Cossack colours:** shoulder straps as ROA or: 4-9 - silver braid strap (gold - artillery), red piping (light blue -Terek); silver buttons, red centre-stripes (dark blue - Don, blue - Terek, black - artillery); 10-11 - as ROA with golden-yellow strap piping (bright red - artillery); 12-17 - red strap (dark blue - Don, blue - Terek, black - artillery), silver buttons, red piping (light blue - Terek), silver braid bars at button end; 19-20 - badge/rays: centre - darkblue: red (Don), dark blue: yellow (Siberian), black: red (Kuban), black: blue (Terek). 23 - red patch, white lances, bluish dark green edging. 24 - red patch, white lances, aluminium braid edging. **18 March 1944 - 8 May 1945:** German collar patches widely adopted, and for approved officers and NCOs German rank insignia.

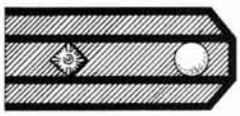


1. General
(General ot Kavalerii)
General der Infanterie

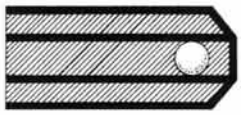
2. General-Leytenant
(General-Leytenant)
Generalleutnant

3. General-Mayor
(General-Mayor)[2]
Generalmajor

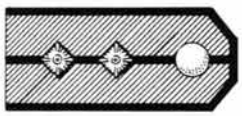
4. Polkovnik
(Polkovnik)
Oberst



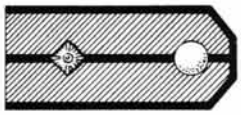
5. Podpolkovnik
(Voyskovoy Starshina)
Oberstleutnant



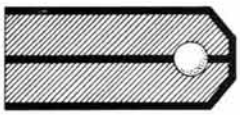
6. Mayor
(Mayor)
Major



7. Kapitan
(Yesaul)
Hauptmann



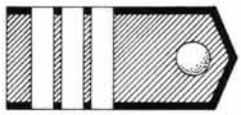
8. Poruchik
(Sotnik)
Oberleutnant



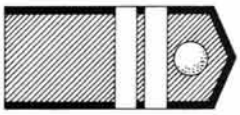
9. Podporuchik
(Khorunzhiy)
Leutnant

10. Khaupt-Fel'dfebel'[1]
(Khaupt-Vakhmistr)[3]
Hauptfeldwebel

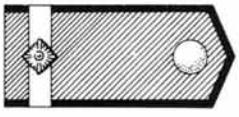
11. Ober-Fel'dfebel'[1]
(Ober-Vakhmistr)[4]
Oberfeldwebel



12. Fel'dfebel'
(Vakhmistr)
Feldwebel

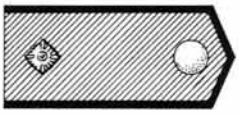


(Cossack variant)
13. Unter-Ofitser
(Uryadnik)
Unteroffizier

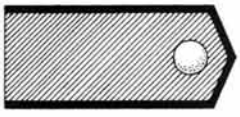


14. Ober-Yefreytor[1]
(Starshiy Prikazni)[1]
Obergefreiter

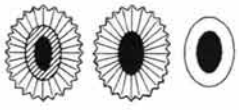
(ROA/Cossack variant)
15. Yefreytor
(Prikazni)
Gefreiter



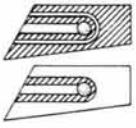
16. Ober-Soldat[1]
(Starshiy Kazak)[5]
Obergrenadier



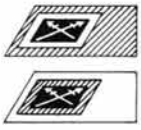
17. Sold
(Kazak)
Grenadier



18. ROA officers' cap.
19. Cossack officers' cap.
20. All NCOs & mens' caps



ROA collar-patches
21. Officers.
22. NCOs & men



Cossack collar-patches
23. Officers.
24. NCOs & men.

Footnotes:
1 Rank authorized but never held.
2 Held from November 1944 by Ivan Nikitich Kononov, wearing German rank insignia.
3 An appointment, not a rank, usually held by a Fel'dfebel'/Vakhmistr.
4 Introduced 15.6.1944 for approved NCOs.
5 Introduced 1.1.1944

letters) above a white inner shield edged red with a blue Tsarist-style St.Andrew's Cross. From 18 March 1944 certain approved personnel, usually only officers, wore German rank insignia and collar patches, and some added an eagle and swastika to their peaked service caps above the cockade. ROA personnel usually wore the German breast eagle, but an order of 2 March 1945 specifically forbade this practice and ordered German cadres to remove their ROA armshields, to perpetuate the fiction that the ROA/KONR were independent German-allied armed forces.

The Ukrainian UVV was prescribed the same insignia with blue and yellow cockades, and an armshield showing 'YBB' (UVV in Cyrillic) above a white Ukrainian trident on a yellow and light blue horizontally divided inner shield; but this insignia, although manufactured, was never issued.

Cossack troops retained their traditional uniforms or adopted German uniforms, and from January 1943 wore German breast eagles and the 'lance' collar patches introduced 15 November 1942. ROA rank insignia were prescribed, but most Cossacks wore them with traditional silver or gold officers' braids, pipings and centre-stripes, and other ranks' shoulder straps and pipings. From 18 March 1944 most troops adopted German collar patches and, for approved personnel, German rank insignia. The distinctive Cossack caps, and the 1st Cossack Division's armshields, are described in Volume 2 (Men-at-Arms 316). All uniforms and insignia were retained after transfer to the Waffen-SS in November 1944. German cadre personnel wore German uniforms and insignia with Cossack armshields, but many also adopted Cossack caps and cloaks, especially for parades. Some emigré Cossack officers from the Russian Revolution, who associated themselves with but were generally resented by the Cossacks, adopted eccentric mixtures of German and Cossack uniforms.

Eastern Legion battalions continued to wear German breast-eagles and collar patch and shoulder board/strap rank insignia introduced in April 1942, and the cap badges adopted in September 1942, described and illustrated in Volume 3 (Men-at-Arms 326). German officer and NCO cadres wore German uniforms and insignia with the Legion shield on the right upper arm.

Infantrymen – including teenage boys and middle-aged men – wait apprehensively in a prisoner-of-war cage for further instructions. Most are wearing the Felduniform 44 with M1943 field cap, and have removed most of their equipment. Note the M1935 rank chevron still worn by the Obergefreiter, right. (ECPA)

Medals and awards

Since July 1941 accounts of heroic acts had been recorded in the 'Roll of Honour of the German Army', equivalent to the British Army's 'mentioned in dispatches'; and on 30 January 1944 such soldiers were awarded a gilded metal clasp in the form of a wreathed swastika, worn on the Iron Cross 2nd Class button hole ribbon.

On 25 November 1942 the Close Combat Clasp – a metal eagle and swastika above a crossed grenade and bayonet on an oak-leaf bar, worn above the left breast pocket – was instituted for 15 (bronze), 30 (silver) or 50 (gilt) days'

This highly decorated Feldwebel is a platoon commander in the reconnaissance company of a Volksgrenadier-Division, September 1944. On the M1943 field tunic can be made out his Iron Cross 1st Class medal and 2nd Class ribbon, Close Combat Clasp and – although he is apparently an infantryman – the General Assault Badge. He carries 6x30 binoculars, and the Sturmgewehr 44 assault rifle issued as a priority to VGD personnel. (Author's collection)

hand-to-hand combat on foot unsupported by armour, counted from 1 December 1942. Hitler considered the gilt badge the highest infantry decoration, and personally awarded them from 17 August 1944.

The Anti-Partisan War Badge – a metal sword in a wreath stabbing down into writhing snakes, worn on the left breast pocket – was instituted on 30 January 1944 by Reichsführer-SS Himmler for any personnel completing 20 (bronze), 50 (silver) or 150 (gold) days' anti-partisan service.

On 20 August 1944 the Sniper's Badge – a grey cloth oval with a black eagle's head above two green oak-leaves, worn on the right cuff – was awarded in three grades: 1st Class, with a gold cord inner edging, for 60 kills; 2nd Class, silver cord, for 40 kills; and 3rd Class, without cord, for 20 kills, reckoned from 1 September 1944.

Three new campaign shields, worn on the upper left arm, were officially instituted during this period. On 25 April 1943 the white metal Demyansk Shield – depicting a Wehrmacht eagle clutching an Iron Cross above crossed swords and an aeroplane, worn without cloth backing – was awarded to 100,000 men in six infantry divisions (12, 30, 32, 123, 225, 290) of II Corps who had defended the pocket in Central Russia from 8 February to 30 June 1942. The bronze Kuban Shield – an eagle and swastika above a stylized map, worn on a *feldgrau* cloth backing – was instituted on 20 September 1943 for the 17th Army's defence of the Kuban bridgehead from 1 February to 9 October 1943. On 10 December 1944 the bronze Warsaw Shield – featuring a German eagle strangling a snake – was instituted for troops who fought against the Polish Home Army in the Warsaw Uprising from 1 August to 2 October 1944; but no shields were actually produced. (In March 1945 a grey Lappland Shield – featuring a map of the area – was instituted for 20th Mountain Army personnel, but probably never awarded.)

The 'special badge for single-handed destruction of a tank' – a black metal tank on a silver lace strip with upper and lower black edging, worn on the right upper sleeve – was awarded from 9 March 1942. On 18 December 1943 a gold tank on a gold strip was instituted for five tanks destroyed. On 12 January 1945 the same design but with an aircraft silhouette replacing the tank was instituted as the 'long-range aircraft destruction badge' for shooting down an enemy aeroplane with small arms or a light machine-gun.

Table 3: SELECTIVE LIST OF BRANCH AND UNIT INSIGNIA OF UNITS ON THE EASTERN FRONT 3 FEBRUARY 1943 - 8 MAY 1945

Units	Branch colour	Shoulder-strap insignia			Other distinctions
		Northern Front	Central Front	Southern Front *(Balkans 5.10.44-8.5.45)*	
Combat Troops - Staff *(Kommandobehörde)*					
General Officers (Generale)	Bright red	None	None	None	*Larisch* patches
General Staff *(Generalstab)* officers	Crimson	None	None	None patches	Silver *Kolben*
7 Army Group *(Heeresgruppe)* Staffs	White	G (Nord/Kurland)	G (Mitte/Nord, Weichsel) Süd /Nordukraine/ A/Mitte) *(E , F)*	G (A/Südukraine/Ostmark,	–
10 Army *(Armee)* Staffs	White	A / 16, 18	A / 2/Ostpreussen, 4, 9, 11	A / 6-9, 17	–
1 Mountain Army *(Gebirgsarmee)* Staff	Light green	A / 20	–	–	*Edelweiss* badges
4 Armoured Army *(Panzerarmee) Staffs*	Pink	–	A / 2, 3	A / 1, 4 *(2)*	–
52 Corps *(Korps)* Staffs (* Corps had Latin numbers)	White	1-7, 8, 10, 16, 26, 28, 33, 38-9, 43, 50, 54, 70-1	6-9, 12-3, 17, 20-3, 26-8,32, 35, 43, 53, 55, 59-60, 66-9, 101	5, 7-8, 11--3, 17, 24, 29, 30,32, 34, 42-4, 49, 52, 59, 72, 90 *(15, 22, 68-9)*	–
4 Mountain Corps *(Gebirgskorps)* Staff *	Light green	18-9, 36	15, 18	–	*Edelweiss* badges
11 Armoured Corps*(Panzerkorps)* Staffs *	Pink	–	39-41, 46-8, 56-7	GD, 3, 4/FH, 39, 40, 46-8, 56-7	–
1 Cavalry Corps *(Kavallerie)* Staff *	Gold-yellow	≠	1	*(1)*	–
3 Reserve *(Reserve)* Corps Staffs *	White	61	–	*62 (69)*	–
Combat Troops – Infantry *(Infanterie)*					
180 Infantry *(Infanterie)* Division Staffs	White	1-2, 11, 21, 23-4, 30, 32, 52,58, 61, 69, 74, 81, 83, 87, 93, 96, 121-3, 126, 132, 140, 163, 169-70, 199, 201, 205, 207, 210, 215, 217-8, 223, 225, 227, 230, 254, 263, 270, 274, 280-1, 285, 290, 295, 300, 328-9, 331, 389, 391, 613, 702	1, 7, 12, 14, 17, 21, 23, 30, 32, 34-6, 50, 52, 56-8, 61, 68-9, 72-3, 82-3, 85-8, 93, 95, 98, 102, 110, 112-3, 129, 131, 134 137, 169-70, 197, 201, 203, 205-6, 208, 214-6, 221, 227, 251-3, 255, 258, 260, 262-3, 267-8, 281, 286, 291-3, 296, 299, 321, 323, 327, 330-2, 339, 342, 377, 383, 391, 402, 433, 463, 604-7, 610, 707, 712	1, 9, 15, 17, 34, 38-9, 46, 48, 50, 57, 68, 72-3, 75-6, 82, 88, 94, 96-8, 106, 111-2, 123, 125, 131, 153-4, 158, 161, 168, 182, 187, 193, 198, 213-4, 217, 223, 253-5, 258, 269, 275, 282, 291, 293-4, 302, 304, 306, 327-8, 332, 335-6, 339,342, 344, 356-7, 359, 367, 370-1, 376, 384, 387, 389, 404, 408, 413, 444, 454, 463-4, 546, 603, 609, 613, 616	–
14 Line Infantry *(Grenadier)* Div. Staffs	White	31	6, 541-2, 547-9, 558, 561-2	HuD, 45, 544-5	–
38 Infantry *(Volksgrenadier)* Div. Staffs	White	12, 31, 211 , 563	6, 18, 26, 31, 45, 183, 211-2, 246, 256, 277, 326, 337, 340, 349, - 541-2, 547-9, 551, 558, 561-2	6, 12, 16, 45, 62, 79, 167, 183, 211, 257, 271, 276, 320, 340, 347, 349, 361,544-5	–
1 People's Assault *(Volkssturm)* Div. Staff	White	–	78	78	–
9 Line Infantry *(Grenadier)* Brigades	White	193, 388, 503	1131-2, 1135	1133-4, 1136	–
580 Line Infantry *(Grenadier)* Regts	White	1-742 series	1-745 series	1-1090 series	–
9 Line Infantry *(Fusilier)* Regts	White	22, 26, 68	GD, 22, 26-7, 34, 39, 68, 202	GD, , 230	–
7 Rifle *(Jäger)* Div. Staffs	Light green	5, 8, 28	5, 28, 100-1	8, 28, 100-1, 117*(117-8)*	*Jäger* badges

Units	Branch colour	Shoulder-strap insignia			Other distinctions
		Northern Front	**Central Front**	**Southern Front** *(Balkans 5.10.44-8.5.45)*	
14 Rifle *(Jäger)* Regts	Light green	28, 38, 49, 56, 75, 83	49, 54, 56, 75 , 83, 227-9	28, 38, 49, 54, 83, 227-9, 737, 749	*Jäger* badges
11 Rifle Field *(Feld(L))* Div. Staffs	White	1, 9-10, 12-4, 21	4, 6	5 *(11)*	–
23 Rifle *(Feld(L))* Regts	White	1, 17-20, 23-8, 41-3	49-54	9 *(21-2)*	–
7 Mountain *(Gebirgs)* Division Staffs	Light green	2, 5-7,	3	1, 3-4 *(1)*	*Edelweiss* badges
14 Mountain *(Gebirgs)* Regts.	Light green	85, 100, 136-7, 141, 143, 206, 218	138-9	13, 91, 98-9, 138-9 *(98-9)*	*Edelweiss* badges
1 Ski *(Skijäger)* Division Staff	Light green	–	1	1	*Edelweiss* badges
2 Ski *(Skijäger)* Regts.	Light green	–	1, 2	1, 2	*Edelweiss* badges
8 Reserve *(Reserve)* Division Staffs	White		141, 151, 154 , 174	147, 153 *(173, 187)*	–
20 Reserve Inf.*(Reserve-Grenadier)*Regts.	White	–	1-266 series	23-268 series *(17-462 series)*	–
Combat Troops – Mobile Troops *Schnelle Truppen*					
1 Cavalry *(Kavallerie)* Division Staff	Gold-yellow	–	3-4	3-4 *(3-4)*	Cavalry breeches, boots
4 Mounted Cavalry *(Reiter)* Regts	Gold-yellow	–	Nord/5, Süd/41, Mitte/105	5, 31-2, 41	Cavalry breeches, boots
21 Armoured *(Panzer)* Division Staffs	Pink	4, 12, 14	2-9, 12, 18-20, 25	1-3, 6-9, 11, 13-4, 16-7, 19-20, 23, 25, 27 *(23)*	Black *Panzer* uniform
1 Armoured *(Panzer)* Division Staff	Gold-yellow	–	–	24	Black *Panzer* uniform
3 Armoured *(Panzer)* Division Staffs	Pink	–	FH1, GD	FH2, GD	Black *Panzer* uniform
5 Armoured *(Panzer)* Brigades	Pink	101	102-4	109-10	Black *Panzer* uniform
25 Armoured *(Panzer)* Regts.	Pink	29, 35-6, 118	3, 6, 8-11, 18, 21, 25 ,27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 101, 118	1-4, 6, 9-11, 15, 21, 25, 27, 33, 36, 39 *(23)*	Black *Panzer* uniform
1 Armoured *(Panzer)* Regt.	Gold-yellow	–		24	Black *Panzer* uniform
4 Armoured *(Panzer)* Regts.	Pink	–	FH/FH1, GD	BG, FH2, GD *(BG)*	Black *Panzer* uniform
26 Armd Recce.*(Panzeraufklärung)* Bns.	Pink	A / 4, 12, 14 1	A / FH, GD 2-9, 12, 18-9,	A/1-3, 6-9, 11, 13-4, 16-7, 19, 24,-5, 110, 120 *(23)*	Grey *Panzer* uniform
4 Armd.Inf.*(Panzergrenadier)* Div. Staffs	Grass green	18	10, 18, 20, 25	10, 20	Grey *Panzer* uniform
4 Armd.Inf.*(Panzergrenadier)* Div.Staffs	White	–	FB, FG, FH, GD	BG , FH1, GD *(BG)*	Grey *Panzer* uniform
1 Motorized *(Grenadier(mot.))* Brigade	White	–	–	*(92)*	–
50 Armd.Infantry *(Panzergrenadier)* Regts.	Grass green	5, 12, 25, 30, 33, 51,	2-5, 6 -7, 10-4, 20, 25, 28, 30, 33, 35, 41, 51-2, 73-4, 76, 90, 98-102, 114, 119, 146-7, 304, 394 146-7, 304, 394 *(126, 128)*	3-4, 6-7, 1 0-1, 20-1, 26, 28, 40-1, 63-4, 66, 7 3-4, 76, 79, 90, 93, 98, 103, 108, 110-1, 113-4, 140	Grey *Panzer* uniform
5 Armd.Infantry *(Panzergrenadier)* Regts.	Grass green	–	FB, FH1, GD	BG, FH3 *(BG)*	Grey *Panzer* uniform
251 Div. Recce. *(Füsilier)* Bns.	Gold-yellow	1-702 div. series	1-712 div. series	1-546 div. series	–
7 Mtn. Recce.*(Gebirgsaufklärung)* Bns.	Gold-yellow	67, 91, 95, 99	95	54, 94, 112, *(54)*	*Edelweiss* badges
286 Antitank *(Panzerjäger)* Bns.	Pink	P / 1-702 div. series	P / 1-712 div. series	P / 1-546 div. series	–

Units	Branch colour	Shoulder-strap insignia			Other distinctions
		Northern Front	Central Front	Southern Front *(Balkans 5.10.44-8.5.45)*	
Combat Troops – Artillery *(Artillerie)*					
1 Artillery *(Artillerie)* Division Staff	Bright red	–	–	18	–
254 Artillery *(Artillerie)* Regts.	Bright red	1-702 series	1-712 series	1-546 series	–
7 Mount.Artill.*(Gebirgsartillerie)* Regts	Bright red	82, 95, 111, 118	112	79, 94, 111 *(79)*	*Edelweiss* badges
29 Armd Artillery*(Panzerartillerie)* Regts	Bright red	29-118 series	FB, FG, FH, GD, 2-25 series	BG, FH1, GD, 1 -27 series *(23)*	Black *Panzer* uniform
44 Assault Artillery*(Sturmartillerie)* Brigs	Bright red	184-5, 202, 303, 393, 600, 909, 912,	177, 1 89-90, 201-3, 209-10, 226, 228, 232, 237, 244-5, 259, 261, 270, 276, 279, 281, 286, 303, 904, 920,	177, 191203, 210, 228, 232, 239, 243-4, 249, 259, 277,300-1, 311, 322, 325, 395, 600, 905, 911	Grey *Panzer* uniform
4 Rocket Launcher *(Werfer)* Brigades	Bord. red	2	3, 6	1	–
Combat Troops – Engineers *(Pioniere)*					
251 Engineer *(Pionier)* Bns	Black	1-702 div. series	1-712 div. series	1-546 div. series	–
7 Mount. Engineer *(Gebirgspionier)* Bns	Black	82, 91, 95, 99	83	54, 83, 94	*Edelweiss* badges
29 Armd Engineer *(Panzerpionier)* Regts	Black	29-118 div. series	FB, FG, FH, GD, 2-25 series	BG, FH1, GD, 1 -27 series *(23)*	Black *Panzer* uniform
Combat Troops – Signals *(Nachrichtentruppe)*					
251 Signals *(Nachrichten)* Bns	Lem. yellow	29-118 div. series	FB, FG, FH , GD, 2-25 series	BG, FH1, GD, 1-27 series *(23)*	–
7 Mount.Sigs *(Gebirgsnachrichten)* Bns	Lem. yellow	67, 91, 95, 99	68	54, 68, 94	*Edelweiss* badges
23 Armd Sigs *(Panzernachrichten)* Regts	Lem. yellow	29-118 div. series	FB, FG, FH, GD, -25 series	BG, FH1, GD, *(23)* 1 -27 series	Black *Panzer* uniform
15 War Correspondent*(Propaganda)*Coys.	Lem.Yellow	501, 621, 680	612, 670, 689, 649, 693, 697	612, 637, 649, 666, 691, 694-5 *(693)*	*PK* cuff-title
Supply Troops *(Versorgungstruppen)*					
290 Div. Supply *(Nachschubführer)* Cdrs	Light blue	D / 1-702 div. series	D / 1-712 div. series	D / 1-546 div. series	–
290? Motor Transport *(Nachschub)* Cols.	Light blue	N / 1-702 div. series	N / 1-712 div. series	N / 1-546 div. series	–
380? Horse Transport *(Nachschub)* Cols.	Light blue	N / 1-702 div. series	N / 1-712 div. series	N / 1-546 div. series	Cavalry breeches, boots
290 Horse Medical. *(Sanitäts) Coys* – men	Dark blue	1-702 div. series	1-712 div. series	1-546 div. series	Red Cross armband
32 Mot.Medical *(Sanitäts)* Coys – men	Dark blue	1-702 div. series	1-712 div. series	1-546 div. series	–
251 Veterinary *(Veterinär) Coys* – men	Crimson	1-702 div. series	1-712 div. series	1-546 div. series	Cavalry breeches
Security Troops *(Sicherungstruppen)*					
14 Army Rear-Area Commders *(Korück)*	White	525, 583-4,	532, 550, 580, 590	531, 535, 550, 553, 558, 585, 593	–
11 Dist.Commds	White	394, 396	392, 399, 400, 668	242, 393, 397, 579, 679	–

Units	Branch colour	Shoulder-strap insignia			Other distinctions
		Northern Front	Central Front	Southern Front *(Balkans 5.10.44-8.5.45)*	
290 MP *(Feldgendarmerie)* Troops	Orange	1-702 div. series	1-712 div. series	1-546 div. series	Sleeve badge, cuff-title
16 Security *(Sicherungs)* Division Staffs	White	D/52, 94, 207, 281, 285, 390-1	D/52, 201, 203, 221, 286	D/213, 403, 444, 454	–
19 Security *(Sicherungs)* Regts.	White	S / 7, 88, 94, 107, 113, 601	S / 36, 57 , 61, 88, 122, 183, 601, 608, 613	S / 177, 318, 360, 375	–
Foreign Troops					
1 Spanish *(Spanische)* Infantry Div. Staff	White	D / 250	–	–	Spanish arm-badge
3 Spanish *(Spanisches)* Infantry Regts.	White	262-3, 269	–	–	Spanish arm-badge
1 Spanish *(Spanisches)* Legion	White	?	–	–	Spanish arm-badge
3 Croatian *(Kroatisches)* Infantry Div Staffs	White	–	–	*(369, 373, 392)*	Croatian arm-badge
6 Croatian *(Kroatisches)* Infantry Regts	White	–	–	*(369-70, 383-4, 846-7)*	Croatian arm-badge
1 French *(Französisches)* Infantry Regt.	White	–	638	–	French arm-badge
1 Walloon *(Wallonische)* Infantry Bn.	Light green	–	–	373	Belgian arm-badge
2 ROA Infantry *(Infanterie)* Div. Staffs	Red	–	600, 650	–	ROA right arm-badge
1 ROA Infantry Brigade	Red	–	599	–	ROA right arm-badge
6 ROA *(Grenadier)* Infantry Regts	Red	–	1601-5, 1607, 1651-3	–	ROA right arm-badge
71 ROA Eastern *(Ost)* Bns	Red	653, 658-669, 672, 674	7, 82, 134, 229, 2 63, 268, 308, 339, 406, 412, 427, 439, 441, 446-9, 559, 561, 574, 600-5, 615-21, 627-30, 633-7, 642-3, 646-9, 651, 675, 680	318, 447, 454, 550-1, 556	ROA left arm-badge
11 Armenian *Ostlegion* Bns	Gold yellow	–	I/98, I/125, 810, 814-6	II/9, III/73, 808-9 *(I/125, 422)*	Armenian arm-badge
14 Azeri *Ostlegion* Bns	Green	–	817-20, IV/101	I/4(Geb), I-II/73, I/97, I/101, I/111, 804-6	Azeri arm-badge
7 Georgian *Ostlegion* Bns	Red	–	I/1(Geb), I/9(Geb)	II/4(Geb), I/9, 795-6, *(II/125)*	Georgian arm-badge
5 North Caucasian *Ostlegion* Bns	Brown	–	–	800-2, *842-3)*	North Caucasian badge
34 Turkestani *Ostlegion* Bns	Light blue	–	I/44, I/71, I /76, I/79, I/100, I/113, I/305, I/371, I/376, I/384, I/389, 785-6, 788, 790-2	8(Fz), 11(Fz), 156, I/295, I/370, 4 50, 452, 781-4, 811, 1000-1(GebTr), *(II/297, 789)*	Turkestan arm-badge
8 Volga-Tartar *Ostlegion* Bns	Blue/Green	–	825, 828-34	–	Volga-Tartar badge
2 Cossack *(Kosaken)* Division Staffs	Gold yellow	–	–	*(1, 2)*	Cossack arm-badge
6 Cossack *(Kosaken)* Cavalry Regts	Various	–	–	1-6 *(1-5)*	Cossack arm-badge
9 Cossack *(Kosaken)* Infantry Bns	Red	126	574-5, 622, 624-5	570, 572-3 *(572-3)*	Cossack arm-badge
19 Cossack *(Kosaken/Ostreiter)* Cavalry Bns	Red	207, 285	57, 69, 780, 161, 443, 580, 622-5, 631, 638	126, 281, 403, 444, 480	Cossack arm-badge

OPPOSITE **April 1944: private in a Großdeutschland motorized regiment on look-out duty. He wears a M1943 field tunic with the two NCO braid bars of an officer candidate on his shoulder straps, and a second pattern helmet cover in M1942 Zeltbahn 31 camouflage; and is speaking into a M1933 field telephone. (ECPA)**

THE PLATES

A: NORTHERN AND CENTRAL FRONT, SPRING 1943

A1: Leutnant, Panzergrenadier-Regiment 2; Rzhev Salient, central Russia, March 1943.
Over his other ranks' M1940 field tunic with officers' M1935 collar patches this platoon commander wears the M1942 white/*feldgrau* reversible winter tunic, without the unpopular M1942 arm rank insignia – not widely worn until 1944. He also wears a *feldgrau* cloth cap lined with rabbit-fur (the most common fur cap), with unofficially added M1935 field cap insignia; M1942 reversible trousers; other ranks' belt and M1939 'short shaft' marching boots and woollen 'trigger-finger' mittens; ammunition pouches for his MP40 sub-machine gun, and a leather flare pouch. He is loading his M1928 27mm Walther short-barrel flare pistol with a red brilliant smoke cartridge.

A2: Hauptmann, Artillerie-Regiment 240; Leningrad, NW Russia, February 1943.
This artillery battalion commander wears the sentries' and horsedrawn vehicle drivers' sheepskin overcoat with *feldgrau* cloth collar, also popular with officers – generals favoured a thigh-length version with a sheepskin collar. The M1934 'old style' field cap without crown stiffening, officially abolished 1 April 1942 but worn until May 1945, has aluminium thread insignia and bright red artillery piping. He also wears a balaclava, M1942 snow boots and woollen gloves. In the absence of the M1942 arm rank insignia only the 10x50 Zeiß binoculars, M1934 officers' belt and hardshell holster for the P08 Luger suggest his commissioned rank.

A3: Grenadier, Grenadier-Regiment 474; Demyansk, central Russia, February 1943.
This sentry wears the M1942 snow coverall over his M1942 other ranks' greatcoat; note also the mittens, the balaclava rolled up under his M1935 whitewashed steel helmet, and general purpose goggles. The M1942 leather-reinforced felt overboots with wooden soles, issued for winter sentry and static defence duty, replaced the impractical straw overboots, and were sometimes worn on the move. He carries the M1931 canteen and mess kit attached to the M1941 canvas bread bag; his weapon is the Karabiner 98k, the Wehrmacht's standard rifle.

B: SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL FRONT, SUMMER 1943

B1: Obergefreiter, Panzer-Regiment 15; Kursk, central Russia, July 1943.
This tank crewman participating in the 'Death Ride of the Panzers' at Kursk wears the M1942 Panzer jacket without pink collar piping but with M1934 pink-piped skull collar patches and shoulder straps, and M1940 mouse-grey breast-eagle and (see left sleeve) rank chevrons. He has the Eastern Winter Campaign 1941/42 buttonhole ribbon, and a black Wound Badge (one and two wounds). His headgear is the short-lived M1942 black field cap; he wears M1942 reed-green herringbone twill Panzer work trousers with a large thigh pocket, ankle boots, and general purpose goggles, and carries the M1931 canteen and cup.

B2: Oberfüsilier, Füsilier-Regiment 202; Kiev, central Ukraine, September 1943.
Belonging to an infantry regiment designated 'Füsilier' on 11 June 1943 to commemorate a Great War regiment, this veteran section member wears the M1942 field tunic with M1940 insignia, M1942 field cap with buttoned flap, M1940 trousers, M1941 anklets and ankle boots, and still has the obsolete eagle decal on his M1935 steel helmet. He has M1909 leather rifle ammunition pouches, and the surplus M1940 tropical webbing infantry support Y-straps widely issued after May 1943; a gas mask canister hangs from its diagonal slinging strap, and a bayonet and entrenching shovel are worn behind his left hip. He carries a M1939 TNT 'egg' percussion grenade fixed below his right hand pouches; the unpopular Walther 7.92mm Gewehr 41(W) semi-automatic rifle; and the M1943 Panzerfaust Klein 30 recoilless anti-tank projectile launcher, trialled on the Eastern Front in July 1943 and placed in immediate production.

B3: Unteroffizier, Grenadier-Regiment 37; Kursk, central Russia, July 1943.
This sniper wears the M1942 first pattern collarless reversible white/Zeltbahn 31 'splinter' camouflage smock with matching M1935 helmet cover, M1940 *feldgrau* trousers and M1939 'short shaft' marching boots; he omits the M1942 arm rank insignia, thus concealing his NCO status. On his black other ranks' belt he wears M1909 leather ammunition pouches for his Karabiner 98k rifle, which is fitted with the extremely efficient M1939 Zeiß 4-power 'high' model turret-mounted 'scope sight issued to trained snipers. He also carries standard 6x30 binoculars with a field-made Zeltbahn 31 camouflage cover, and a bayonet.

C: WINTER 1943-1944

C1: Obergefreiter, Grenadier-Regiment 163; Orsha, eastern Belarus, October 1943.
This machine-gunner wears a M1942 greatcoat – together with the surcoat, the main winter protection for infantrymen – with M1940 left sleeve chevrons of rank. His M1935 steel helmet has a rubber tyre inner tubing band for fixing foliage camouflage, and he has scraped off the left side decal in obedience to 28 August 1943 regulations. His M1942 field cap is tucked into his belt; he wears M1940 trousers, M1941 anklets and ankle boots. He carries the MG42 light machine gun and has first gunner's belt equipment – a black leather spares pouch and a P38 Walther pistol in a hardshell holster – supported by M1939 infantry Y-straps. A gas mask canister strap is visible over his shoulder, and a bayonet and folding shovel at his hip.

C2: Leutnant, Jäger-Regiment 204; Nikopol, southern Ukraine, January 1944.
This platoon commander wears a M1942 thin two-piece snow camouflage suit with a red field sign printed on each sleeve, over his *feldgrau* field uniform and M1942 polo-neck sweater, with M1939 'short shaft' marching boots. The helmet cover is the M1942 first pattern reversible white/Zeltbahn 31 camouflage type. He carries two sets of magazine pouches for his MP40 sub-machine gun, 6x30 binoculars, and a 3kg anti-tank assault charge.

C3: Panzergrenadier, Panzergrenadier-Regiment 146; Kamenets-Podol'skiy, western Ukraine, March 1944.
This third gunner in his section's light machine gun team carries a 300-round ammunition box for the MG42. He wears the M1942 padded reversible winter tunic and trousers in first pattern white/Zeltbahn 31 camouflage, usually issued to armoured infantry units; the M1943 peaked field cap, M1941 anklets and ankle boots. He evidently prefers *feldgrau* woollen 'trigger-finger' mittens to the white/camouflage reversible mittens without a trigger-finger, a deficiency corrected in later 'marsh pattern' mittens. He has M1909 leather ammunition pouches for his Karabiner 98k mid-war production rifle, and carries M1924 stick-grenades; his M1935 helmet still bears traces of whitewash snow camouflage.

D: NORTHERN AND CENTRAL FRONTS, 1944

D1: Unterfeldwebel, Estnische Bataillon 659; Narva, Estonia, April 1944.
This volunteer wears the M1942 reed-green summer field uniform with M1940 *feldgrau* shoulder straps and M1940 NCO strap and collar braid, breast eagle and collar patches; note the M1943 Estonian armshield, Infantry Assault Badge, silver Wound Badge and Iron Cross 2nd Class buttonhole ribbon. The M1943 peaked field cap with mouse-grey insignia, M1941 anklets and ankle boots complete the outfit. The M1939 Y-straps support M1909 Karabiner 98k (right) and canvas Gewehr 43 (left) ammunition pouches, folding shovel and M1931 canteen on his belt; a field flashlight is fixed at his left shoulder. He is armed with a M1924 stick grenade and a Walther 7.92mm Gewehr 43 semi-automatic rifle.

D2: Oberst, Kavallerie-Regiment Mitte; Pinsk, western Belarus, April 1944.
Following common practice this cavalry regiment commander has modified his other ranks' M1940 field tunic with a shortened skirt, bluish dark green collar, officer's collar patches and breast eagle, but not the turn-back cuffs

September 1943: an infantry company cobbler working in the field behind an array of long-shaft and M1939 short-shaft marching boots and ankle boots. His colleague, the company tailor, repairs a field tunic; unit tailors were responsible for many of the non-standard uniform items seen in 1943-45. (Brian Davis)

ABOVE, LEFT **November 1943: Unterofffizier of the Panzergrenadier-Division Großdeutschland wearing a M1935 field tunic; note white branch-colour 'GD' chainstitch monogram on his shoulder strap. The fleece-trimmed felt field cap – see also colour plate F1 – bears an aluminium machine-woven M1935 breast-eagle. Note leather M1939 support Y-straps, and 10x50 Voigtländer combat leader's binoculars. He wears the Iron Cross 1st Class, the bronze Infantry Assault Badge for motorized infantry, and the bronze DRA State Sports Badge. (ECPA)**

ABOVE **January 1944: this Oberleutnant wears a M1942 reversible padded winter tunic, with the soiled white side outwards and showing the M1942 arm rank insignia, over his field tunic showing officers' M1935 collar patches and Knight's Cross. His M1938 officers' field cap shows the aluminium wire crown and flap-front piping. (ECPA)**

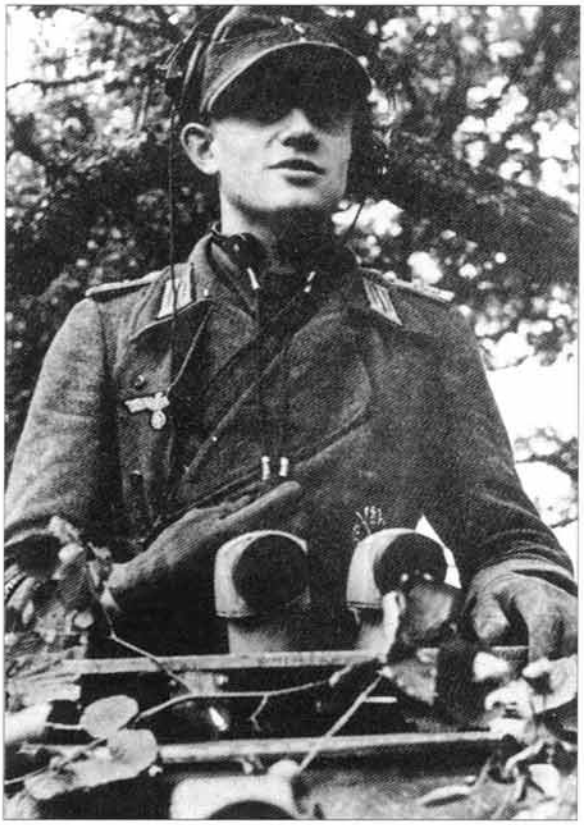
sometimes seen. He has a M1935 helmet, M1940 leather-reinforced breeches, riding boots and spurs, the rare bakelite 6x30 binocular case, and a Walther P38 in a soft leather holster. The officers' M1938 field cap in his belt has aluminium thread piping, eagle and cockade, but not the aluminium Brunswick Eagle unofficially worn by this regiment since April 1943. He has the Iron Cross 1st Class medal and 2nd Class ribbon, and the General Assault Badge.

D3: Füsilier, Füsilier-Regiment Feldherrnhalle; Minsk, central Belarus, July 1944.
This former SA stormtrooper (note bronze SA Wehrabzeichen military fitness badge) wears the M1943 field tunic with M1940 collar patches and breast-eagle, embroidered *'Feldherrnhalle'* cuff title and runic shoulder strap motifs. He has M1943 trousers, M1941 anklets and ankle boots; he has painted his M1942 helmet summer tan, and green and brown blotches were sometimes added. His belt, with M1909 pouches, bayonet and folding shovel, is worn without Y-straps; the slings of his 98k rifle and gas mask canister cross on his chest. His armament includes both M1924 stick and M1939 egg grenades, and a Panzerfaust 60. This unit was destroyed at Minsk.

E: CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FRONTS, 1944

E1: Gefreiter, Panzergrenadier-Regiment 103; Iasi, Rumania, August 1944.
This machine gunner wears the M1943 field tunic and trousers, M1941 anklets and ankle boots, M1942 helmet and camouflage net. As first gunner he carries a P38 Walther pistol in a soft shell holster on his left hip; at right front would be a spares pouch – in black leather, or black or tan pressed cardboard – for his 7.92mm MG42. The light order rifleman's equipment on his belt consists of the 84/98 bayonet, M1931 bread bag, canteen, cup and mess kit, with the M1931 shelter-quarter secured by equipment straps. He has left his gas mask and M1938 folding shovel in the Sd.Kfz.251/1 armoured personnel carrier.

E2: Generalmajor, 454.Sicherungs-Division; Brody, western Ukraine, July 1944.
This commander of a rear-area division destroyed at Brody wears the general officers' field uniform virtually unchanged



LEFT **September 1943: Leutnant of the Assault Artillery Battalion of Panzergrenadier-Division Großdeutschland in the cupola of his self-propelled gun. The M1940 special field grey uniform bears M1935 standard officers' collar patches with red artillery 'lights', and M1940 light grey braid shoulder boards with red badge cloth underlay and a gilded aluminium 'GD' monogram. His M1943 field cap is unpiped; note also officers' *feldgrau* suede gloves, and the bronze Infantry Assault Badge indicating previous service in the motorized infantry. (ECPA)**

from 1939. It comprises a M1935 officers' field tunic with general officers' shoulder-boards, gold buttons, breast eagle and collar patches; M1935 service cap with gold pipings and chin cords, and M1942 gilded insignia. He wears M1935 stone-grey breeches with general officers' piping and stripes, and riding boots. Partly obscured here on his left hip is a Walther PPK in a soft leather holster; his 10x50 binoculars are held down by a button tab. His decorations are an Iron Cross 1st Class medal and 2nd Class ribbon and the star of the German Cross in gold.

E3: Panzergrenadier, Panzergrenadier-Regiment 73; Warsaw, September 1944.
This section member wears the M1943 non-reversible smock with integral hood in second pattern 'marsh' camouflage over his M1943 field tunic and M1943 belted trousers. His M1942 helmet has chicken-wire netting for attaching foliage camouflage. Armoured infantry, originally with light-order equipment for mechanized combat, acquired M1939 infantry Y-straps to support heavier equipment when in the dismounted rôle. The conventional belt equipment includes rifle ammunition pouches, stick and egg grenades, bayonet and folding shovel.

F: WINTER 1944-1945

F1: Oberleutnant, Grenadier-Regiment 236; Insterburg (Chernyakhovsk), East Prussia, December 1944. This infantry company commander wears the M1942 padded reversible white/M1943 'marsh' pattern camouflage winter suit, the tunic and trousers turned to different sides. Just visible on the left sleeve is his green-on-black M1942 rank insignia. He has leather-reinforced felt winter boots; the unofficial but common 'felt field cap', similar to the M1943 field cap, has a white fleece band and ear flap lining, and an aluminium service cap badge; the three-finger reversible mittens show the camouflage side. He carries a slightly whitewashed M1935 helmet, and short 10x50 binoculars. His blackened M1934 officer's belt supports a Walther P38 in a soft-shell holster and a dispatch case.

BELOW **March 1944: Wachtmeister of 667th Assault Artillery Brigade. Note the brigade numerals on his shoulder straps, permitted in the field since 16 February 1944. He has removed the Panzer skulls from his red-piped *feldgrau* collar patches, but has not added the mouse-grey 'guards braids' authorized from 30 January 1943. (Brian Davis)**

F2: Fahrer, Fahrschwadron 1/227;
Tukums, central Latvia, December 1944.
This young driver in a horse-drawn company of a divisional supply regiment, recently transferred from Germany, gives the Nazi 'German salute' compulsory after July 1944. He wears the obsolete M1934 other ranks' field cap with mouse-grey insignia, reissued in 1944 from old stocks; the M1943 field tunic with M1940 insignia; *feldgrau* woollen balaclava rolled round his neck, woollen gloves, final pattern *feldgrau* cloth-reinforced cavalry breeches and – rare by 1944 – cavalry riding boots. He has a late-production 98k rifle, the single set of M1909 pouches issued to rear-area troops, and the 84/98 bayonet with M1942 cavalry frog. Note on his left pocket the Hitler Youth Badge of Honour.

F3: Oberjäger, Skijäger-Regiment 1;
Trstina, northern Slovakia, February 1945.
This section leader wears the mountain troops' field uniform: M1938 mountain troops' *feldgrau*/white reversible windproof anorak with three chest pockets and arm rank insignia, and reversible windproof trousers over the M1940 special field grey uniform. He also wears anklets, climbing boots, and the M1943 peaked field cap with mouse-grey insignia and the aluminium ski and oak-leaves badge. Leather M1939 Y-straps support first pattern M1943 beige canvas single-flap magazine pouches for his MP43/MP44 sub-machine gun (renamed in December 1944 the Sturmgewehr 44 assault rifle).

G: SOUTHERN FRONT, 1945

G1: Oberfeldwebel, Panzer-Pionier Bataillon 124;
Vienna, April 1945.
This NCO platoon commander in the Führer-Grenadier-Division wears the M1940 special field grey jacket with mouse-grey breast eagle, M1940 mouse-grey 'guards braids' on black-piped collar patches, and *'Großdeutschland'* right cuff title (but no GD shoulder strap monograms – these were ordered removed from 26 January 1945). His trousers are tucked into grey socks and ankle boots; he wears a second pattern Zeltbahn 31 'splinter' camouflage cover on his M1942 helmet. Decorations are the Iron Cross 2nd Class ribbon, bronze Close Combat Clasp, General Assault Badge and black Wound Badge; he displays the Demyansk armshield, indicating former service with II Corps. He has one set of beige canvas MP40 magazine pouches, a Walther P38 in a soft-shell holster, and a slung Panzerfaust 60.

An Oberleutnant of the 290th Infantry Division wearing an M1940 other ranks' field tunic remodelled with dark green collar and officers' collar patches, breast eagle and shoulder boards. His M1934 peaked field cap, with aluminium thread eagle, cockade and wreath, also displays the unofficial divisional badge of a broadsword; even more unusually, this is repeated on his left pocket flap. This officer's decorations are the Iron Cross 1st Class medal and 2nd Class ribbon, Eastern Winter Campaign 1941/42 ribbon, Infantry Assault Badge, and – as a member of a 'Demyansk' division – the Demyansk sleeve shield. (ECPA)

March 1944: a Technischer Verwaltungsassistent – a technical military official with the equivalent rank of Oberfeldwebel – inspects a tank of the Panzer-Regiment Großdeutschland. He wears the M1935 field tunic with officials' black-piped collar patches and shoulder boards, and the *'Großdeutschland'* cuff title. (Brian Davis)

G2: Oberleutnant, Panzer-Regiment 1;
Székesfehérvár, central Hungary, March 1945.
This tank company commander wears the special black

Panzer uniform (the buttoned-across lapel of his jacket obscuring the M1934 aluminium breast-eagle), with M1934 pink-piped skull collar patches, and M1940 light grey braid shoulder boards with gilt rank stars and regimental numerals. The M1934 trousers are worn with ankle boots; his M1943 Panzer peaked field cap has officers' aluminium crown piping, aluminium eagle and cockade, and the unofficial 1.Panzer-Division oak-leaf badge. Note hard-shell holster for his Walther P38; grey wool gloves; motorcycle goggles; Iron Cross 1st Class medal and 2nd Class ribbon and silver Tank Battle Badge.

G3: Stabsarzt, Sanitätskompanie 178; Plzen, western Czechoslovakia, May 1945.
This divisional medical company commander has managed to surrender to a US 3rd Army unit. He wears officers' M1935 collar patches and breast-eagle and M1940 light grey braid shoulder boards on his other ranks' M1943 field tunic; note ribbon of the War Merit Cross with Swords in the buttonhole. M1940 *feldgrau* breeches, riding boots, and an M1943 field cap with aluminium thread insignia and crown piping complete his dress. He carries a M1942 padded reversible white/Zeltbahn 31 winter tunic. Medical personnel wore the red cross armband; nevertheless, note a P08 Luger in a hard-shell holster on his brown M1934 officers' belt, which he has been permitted to retain for personal protection.

H: CENTRAL FRONT, 1945

H1: Leutnant, Grenadier-Regiment 1099; Stettin, East Germany, April 1945.
This company commander in 549.Volksgrenadier-Division wears the M1944 field tunic and trousers with M1942 polo-neck sweater, and is fortunate enough to have retained M1939 short-shaft marching boots; his M1942 helmet has a rough wire cover. He displays M1935 officers' collar patches; M1940 light grey braid shoulder boards with infantry-white underlay; an other ranks' M1944 machine-woven breast-eagle on a *feldgrau 44* triangular patch; one Tank Destruction Badge and the Infantry Assault Badge. Equipment includes a M1934 brown officers' belt stained black; 6x30 binoculars; two sets of standard M1944 beige canvas magazine pouches for his Sturmgewehr 44 – issued as a priority to Volksgrenadier units; and a Panzerwurfmine 1(L) anti-tank hand grenade.

H2: Grenadier, Grenadier-Regiment 1075; Berlin, April 1945.
This 50-year old infantryman from a battle-group of 541.Volksgrenadier-Division desperately defending Berlin, wears a M1940 surcoat with integral hood over his field uniform, with M1941 anklets and ankle boots, and the M1943 field cap with mouse-grey woven insignia. He has conventional belt and Y-strap equipment, and carries a final model Karabiner 98k rifle (without bayonet lug or cleaning rod). He also carries M1943 stick and M1939 egg grenades, and a Panzerfaust 100.

H3: Feldwebel, Panzergrenadier-Regiment Müncheberg 1; Seelow Heights, East Germany, April 1945.
This section commander defending the Oder Line wears the M1943 non-reversible winter tunic in third pattern M1944 'blotch marsh' camouflage scheme with M1942 arm rank insignia, over an M1942 sweater and M1943 field tunic; M1942 padded reversible white/*feldgrau* trousers over M1943 belted trousers; M1941 anklets and ankle boots; and a M1935 helmet smeared with mud for camouflage. He wears M1940 tropical canvas Y-straps, and beige canvas Soviet magazine pouches for his captured 7.62mm PPS.43 sub-machine gun; an M1938 folding shovel, useful for hand-to-hand fighting, is thrust into his belt.

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